Record Group 104. Entry 6.

Letters Received by the Director and the Superintendent of the Mint, 1866-1900.

Digitized June 3-23, 2022, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Box 2, Book 2 for 1866-1900

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RG 104 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF THE MINT

Records of the U.S. Mint at Philadelphia
Correspondence

LETTERS SENT BY THE DIRECTOR AND THE SUPERINDENTENT OF THE MINT, 1866-1900

Sept. 14, 1867 - Nov. 2, 1868,
May 3, 1869 - Nov. 1870

Box 2 NC-152 Entry 6

U.S. Mint

Letters

No. 5

From May 3rd 1869

To Nov. 1st 1870.

Page	Address	Date	Subject
28	Alexander Rufus	June 2	do not deal in ore of Nickel
40	" "	" 16	Specimens are Sulphuret of Iron
91	Allison. Hon John	Oct 1st	List of Officers and Agts employed in Mint
189	Armstrong J. W	Dec 28	Silver bar for coinage
240	Allen A M	Jany 31 1870	No Officer of the Mint is allowed to make deposits for third parties
	" " "		
296	Austin A. M.	March 1	Mineral Smt contains no Silver
392	Autens & Bourne	May 9	$9 for Shipping Journal
400	Armstrong Hon W H	" 23	Legal-tender of Small Coins
402	Adams G	" 30	Chk for $180. Rec'd Small Coin will be Sent
432	Appleton Gunn & Collum	July 7	Ordering Amer. Jour of Numismatics
464½	Armstrong H.	Sept 12	the Specimen enclosed is platinum
471	" "	Oct 1	the amt of demand for Platinum

Page	Address	Date	Subject
1	Hon Geo S Boutwell	May 3	entered upon duties as Director
3	" " " "	" "	Wants copy of Appropriation Bill
5	" " " "	" 10th	Purchase of Nickel
10	Boutwell Hon G S	" 17	Requisition for $48,400
19	Boutwell Hon Geo S	" 27	Sets of Coin for the Netherlands
20	Bruce I R	" "	Letter Assay your Ore
22	Boutwell Hon G S	June 1	Usual Monthly Count
24	" " " "	"	" " "
25	" " " "	" 2	Statement of Nickel purchased
32	" " " "	June 7	" " " "
35	Burton H H	" 8	Recd two bags Nickel & 1 of Bronze
49	Boutwell Hon G.S.	July 1	Monthly Count
51	" " " "	" "	" "
63	" " " "	" 29	Correspondence with I M Vela
67	" " " "	" 30	Transfered $100.000 to Treasurer
69	" " " "	August 2	Monthly Count U S Asst Treas
70	" " " "	" "	Monthly count Treas U S Mint
81	" " " "	Sept 1	" " U S Asst Treas
82	" " " "	" "	" " Treas U S Mint
89	" " " "	Oct 1	" " " "
90	" " " "	" "	" " U.S. Asst Treas
95	" " " "	" 13	Estimates for U S. for fiscal year 1871
99	" " " "	" "	Requisition for $48,375.00
100	" " " "	" 15	Views on purchase of 20.000 lbs of Nickel
109	" " " "	Nov 4	Monthly Count Treas of Mint
110	" " " "	" "	Monthly Count U S Asst Treas
111	" " " "	" 6	Relation to Annual Repat
112	Bigelow Kennard & Co	" 9	Silver for Assay
121	Boutwell Hon G.S	" 19	100 ozs granulated Silver
129	" " "	Dec 1	Monthly count asst U S Treasurer
130	" " "	" "	" " Treas U S Mint
146	" " "	" 14	Lot of light three dollar gold pieces
156	" " "	" 22	Right of Treasurer to appoint his employes

Page	Address	Date	Subject
367	Boutwell Hon G S	April 11	Letter of R. A. Murcur is returned, charges are false
375	Brown W.	" 26	Enclosing Annual Report, copy of Mint Laws &c
376	" "	" 29	Relation to currency of Canada
383	Boutwell Hon G S	May 2	Count for April 30th of Funds in hands Treas of Mint
385	" " "	" "	Statement of Deposits & Coinage for April 1870
391	" " "	" 7	Transmits Official Bond of Thos C Acton Supt
395	" " "	" 12	Requisition for $48.375
405	" " "	June 1	Monthly Count for May 1870
409	" " "	" 6	Estimate for Wood, Gas, & Water &c
411	Brown W	" 8	Canadian Currency Small coin &c
415	Boutwell Hon G S	" 9	Coinage during May 1870
417	Bagg. S	" 13	Returning $200, Sent for Silver dollars
421	Boutwell Hon G. S.	" 25	Reduction of force of Employees
426	" " " "	July 1	Monthly count & Examination
428	" " " "	" 2	Statement of Coinage for June
429	" " " "	" "	Deposits & Coinage for Six Months preceding June 30
433	Brown Wm	" 7	Ack recpt of Canadian Coins
434	Boutwell Hon G. S.	" 11	Grant Medal Sent
437	" " "	" 13	Wants copy of "Appropriation Bill"
442	" " "	Aug 1	Monthly count Treasure of the Mint
444	" " "	" 4	Requisition $48,375
446	" " "	" "	Deposits & Coinage for July
451	" " "	" 12	$65. more to complete Dahlonega Coin Scales
458	" " "	Sept 1	Usual monthly Count
459	" " "	" "	Statements for August 1870
469	" " "	" 30	" " September 1870
470	" " "	Oct 1	Monthly Count
473	" " "	" 6	Requisition for $48.375
477	" " "	" 17	100 ozs Silver have been sent
479	" " "	" 24	Forwarding Annual Report for 1870
480	" " "	" "	" " " "
481	" " "	" "	Estimates of Appropriations for 1871 & 72
490	" " "	Nov 1	Usual Monthly Count

Page	Hon	Page	address	Date	Subject
1	Hon				
3	"				
5	"				
10	Ho				
19	Ho				
20	Ho				
22	Ho				
24					
25					
32					
35	Ho				
49	Ho				
51	"				
63	"				
67	"				
69	"				
70	"				
81	"				
82	"				
89	"				
90	"				
95	"				
99	"				
100	"				
109	"				
110	"				
111	"				
112	Hon				
121	Hon				
129	"				
130	"				
146	"				
156	"				

No	Address	Date	Subject
185	Butler B. F. Hon	Dec 28	Coining Press
193	Boutwell Hon G S	Jany 1	Monthly Count Treasurer of the Mint
195	" " " "	" "	" " Asst Treas U. S.
202	" " " "	" 24	Relative to deposit of Silver by G H Christian Treas'd of a Mining Co
202	" " " "	" 28	"Bill" for revising the Laws of the Mint, Directors Views.
212	" " " "		
	" " " "		
241	" " " "	Feby 1	Monthly Count of Treas of Mint
250	Booth J. C	" 5	Amt of gold & Silver refined since July 1. 1869
261	Boutwell Hon G. S	" 9	Supt La Grange's repat approved
267	" " " "	" 17	Copy of proceedings of Assay Commr
268	" " " "	" 21	Statement of the business Operations of the Mint from July 1st 1869 To Jany 1870
	" " " "		
	" " " "		
282	" " " "	" 23	Requisition for $48.375
283	" " " "	" 25	Reduction of estimate for fiscal year
293	" " " "	" 28	Monthly Count. Treas of Mint
299	" " " "	March 2	Statement of business Operations
300	Belle F. Danish Minister	" 4	Medals for Royal Danish Cabinet
304	Boutwell Hon G S.	" 7	Names, Compensation &c of Employes
308	" " " "	" "	Silver Bullion fund too small
317	Boston & S. Glass Co	" 12	Discrepancy in two bills
322	" " " "	" 17	Send duplicate bill receipted
328	Boutwell Hon G S	" 21	John Fair's letter received
344	Boston & Sandwich Glass Co	" 29	Enclosing Dft for amt of bill
351	Boutwell Hon G. S.	April 1	Monthly Count
353	" " " "	" "	Amt of force reduced Apl 1
355	" " " "	" "	Deposits & Coinage for March
356	" " " "	" "	Expres Rept for 100 oz granulated Silver
358	" " " "	" 2	Requisition N. O. Assay Office $37,000
361	Bissell Geo P & Co	" 7	$3. Silver for $3 gold
365	Boutwell Hon G. S	" 11	Relation to the charge for refining Silver deposit No 56

Page	Address	Date	Subject
15	Collins John D	May 24	Assaying Silver for Coinage
41	" " "	June 19	Silver Bullion.
76	Chester Rev G J	Aug 6	Ack't rec't of collection of Coins
125	Coleman H H	Nov 26 1870	Copy of Lindermans Report
249	Cochran H. S.	Feby 5	Amt of gold & silver deposited monthly
258	Cadwallader Hon John	" 7	Relation to the Annual Assay
263	" " "	" 14	Change of Officers at San Francisco Branch
264	" " "	" 14	Assay Coins left from last year
418	Chester G J.	June 13	Ack't rec't of Coins for Cabinet
449	Colburn J	Aug 11	$200 for Numismatic Journal

Page	Address	Date	Subject
72	Dyer Micah	Aug 2	Reference to Silver bars
77	Davis G H	" 17	Silver coin, common, worth about two cents
83	Dunning Geo H	Sept 7	Sources of deposit of Silver Bullion
86	Daily J. H.	" 23	Relation to a small package of gold
209	Dawes Hon A.L.	1870 Jany 25	Aggregate profit from Nickel Coinage
211	Dawson A B	" 28	Encl^{d} $10. for Historical Magazine
301	De La Cuesa (Mexican Consul)	March 5	Cost of U.S. Small Coin
357	Dawson A B.	April 2	$5. for Historical Magazine
468	Dysart J S	Sept 26	Name not on list of depositors

Page	Address	Date	Subject
21	Evergreen Mining Co	May 27	6 months Supply of Copper on hand
47	Eyster Geo Asst US Treas	June 28	What constitutes 6 months Supply of Nickel
53	Evett Henry	July 2	Mineral Specimens are not ore
55	Eelle S C	" 10	Loss of rept for Deposit
182	Eyster Geo. Treas US Mint	Dec 22	Right to appoint employes
190	Edleman G. N.	" 29 1870	Sale of Sweeps from California
323	Eliot Nat Bank	March 18	List of Coin Shipped
345	Echeverria M & Co	" 30	No knowledge of Sale of "Coining Press"
487	Ebbert J. H.	Oct 31	Deposit is too small to receive
488	Eyster Geo Treas US Mint	Nov 1	Have sufficient Nickel on hand

Page	Address	Date	Subject
31	Ferris M. H. Asst U S Treas	June 5	5 of ps will be Sent Monday (Telegram)
44	Francis Jas B	" 22	his of 19th rec'd
45	" " "	" 24	The Rumford Medal
128	Fort D. G	Dec 1	Express charger on Small coin
135	Finkelenburg Hon G. A.	" 10	Purchase of Acids for Western Mints
139	Foster G. H.	" 13	Nickel cents of 1856
142	Finkelenburg Hon G. A	" 14	Letter from Mallingkrodt & Co
326	Fairy John	1870 March 21	Improved method of "granulating" gold & Silver
342	Fessenden S. H. Agt	" 26	Bills for Boston & S. Glass Co, defective
393	First Comptroller	May 11	Transmits 248 Oaths of Allegiance
394	" "	" 12	" One " " "

Page	Address	Date	Subject
257	Grob Henry	Feby 7	Order to Express Co to refund $1.15

Page	Address	Date	Subject
85	Homans, J. Smith	Sept 16th	Enclosing $5.00 for Bankers Magazine
123	Huntington, F. J	Nov 23	Meaning of "Fineness" of gold
129	" " "	" 29	Value of English Sovereign
127	Hendricks Brothers	" 30	Plenty of Copper on hand
197	Howe R. S.	Jany 18 1870	History of Money
306	Haff R. C.	March 7	Coins sent were not counterfeit
329	Hooper Hon Samel	" 22	International Coinage
341	Hartley J. F. Asst Sec of Treas	" 25	Nickel-Copper redemption "Circulars" sent
360	Hanson J. B.	April 5	Mint does not coin 25¢ gold pieces
372	Haven F Jr Asst Treas	" 18	Suspected half Eagle of 1858
386	Hoyt A & W.	May 3	Silver Bar is of very inferior quality
389	Homans J. Smith	" 6	Corrected Tables, Directors Report
403	Haven F Jr Asst Treas	" 31	Counterfeit quarter Eagle
429	Hulick David	June 23	First coinage of Cents & half cents
424	Halley & Sheldon	" 27	5¢ Nickels are redeemed by any Asst Treas
447	Haven F Jr Asst Treas	Aug 6	Half Eagle is 40 cts light
450	" " " " "	" 12	Enclosing $4.60 gold
462	" " " " "	Sept 10	Half Eagle is counterfeit
476	Hartley J. F. Asst Sec of Treas	Oct 17	Annual Report will be sent shortly
486	Homans J. Smith	" 31	Enclosing $5. for 76 Bankers Magazine

Page	Address	Date	Subject
43	Jones L H	June 19 1870	Package of Gold rec'd
252	Johnson John O	Feby 7	Information as to genuineness of U. S. coin

Page	Address	Date	Subject
48	Knippenberg H	July 1	proceedings reference to Silver
85	Knox Hon J. Jay	Sept 9	Enclosing Directors Report for 1859. 60 & 61
113	" " " "	Nov 11	Annual Report
133	" " " "	Dec 6	Old Copper cents
181	" " " "	1870 Jan 22	Wants copies of Mint Laws
196	Kelly Hon W. D	Jany 11	Relation to a gold deposit by him
200	King C. C	" 22	Specimens of nickel cents struck in 1856
256	Kelly Eugene & Co	Feb 7	Specimen Coins for Belgium Mint
312	Knox John Jay	March 10	Silver Bullion fund
445	Kelley & Sherman	Aug 4	Parting charges on Silver

Page	Address	Date	Subject
37	Lane Geo W	June 9 1870	List of Articles Shipped
238	Linderman H & R	Jany 31	Wastage & Loss on Sweeps, where they should be charged
~~240~~	~~Laffler I & J~~		
243	Laffler I & J.	Feby 1	Bag of gold dust received
245	Linderman H L.	" 4	Improvements by Mr Mason in Assaying
262	La Grange O H. Supt	" 10	Report rec'd approved and forwarded
397	Linderman H L	May 19	Sends Draft for endorsement

Page	Address	Date	Subject
105	McPherson Edward	Oct 20 1870	Miscellaneous Documents
260	Moore Hon H D	Feby 7	Annual Assay
297	McCartee G. B.	March 1	24 ozs fine Silver sent
318	McCay C. F	" 12	Package of gold dust rec'd Mch 3rd
320	Mead Mrs. C	" 15	Gold Bar not yet received
359	Matthews Lieut E.O.	April 4	40 ozs pure Silver
363	" " " "	" 8	Regtr for 40 ozs pure Silver must be signed by Paymaster at Boston
[illegible]	[illegible]	April 14	Gold bullion sent by Express, duly rec'd
370	McCartee G. B.	" 18	Sent to day 40 ozs pure Silver
373	Matthews Lieut Comdg E.O	Sept 24	Not Authorized to coin for other Governments
467	Mann A.P. & Co	Oct 20	Value of the British Pound Sterling
478	MacDonald C H		

440	Aerial & Co	July 29	Cannot pay gold for Silver
460	" "	Sept 1	25¢ piece of Canada for Assay &c
484	Aegley — Hon	Oct 25	Gold Scales will be sent Shortly
489	" "	Nov 1	" " sent yesterday

Page	Address	Date	Subject
108	Opdyke Geo & Co	Nov 3	Small Gold Bars
117	Ordway Albert	" 16	Gold from Virginia since 1850
118	Ott John	" 17	Disposition of Silver from Nevada
247	Ordway N. G. Hon	Feby 4 1870	Enclosing Check for $2.000
454	Oliver W H	Aug 23	Can furnish any amt of Cents on demand

Page	Address	Date	Subject
106	Pardee I Jay & Co	Oct 28	700 ozs foreign Silver
107	" " " "	" 30 1870	Quarter and Half dollars
244	Pepper Matt	Feby 2	Deposit in hands of Adams Express Co
310	Pough S A	March 9	bar of base Silver, gold in it no account
438	Penfield A	July 19	Amt of gold in Senegal region, Africa

Page	Address	Date	Subject
29	Robbins C	June 4	Are not buying Nickel at present
122	Richardson H A	Nov 22 1870	100 ozs granulated Silver
295	Renwick E.L.	March 1	No occasion to by Miller's patent for Refining
303	Robbins. C	" 7	Large supply of Nickel on hand
311	Riddle G. H.	" 10	Medal for N.H. State Agl Soc'l
396	Rives & Bailey	May 17	Orders "Daily Globe"
398	" "	" 19	$10. for Daily Globe
399	Ridgway T. S.	" "	$200, Rec'd & Coin will be sent
407	Rand Chas S.	June 6	Bolivian Monies
420	Renwick E. S	" 23	Report of Sidney Mint on Millers Process
441	Richardson Hon H.A. Adley	Aug 1	Coin Scales for Baltimore
453	" " " "	" 23	Dahlonega Scales will not answer
455	Renwick E. S	" "	"Millers Process"
456	Richardson Hon H.A.	" 27	Scales for B. have been ordered price $650.
465	" " " "	Sept 14	Wants printed "book of Estimates" for 1870
472	Ricker T.J & Co	Oct 5	Nickels not arrived

Page	Address	Date	Subject
6	B F Stevens London	May 11	Report of British Coinage
7	Swain Robt B	" 15	Sight Draft $4249 &c
8	Swain Robt B	" "	Count for April 1869
30	Spinner F E	June 5	No such Coin in Mint Collection
38	Smith F L	" 11	Two Copies Mint Laws
39	Swain Robt B	" 15	Rec'd Express Rect for Assay Coin
42	Squires Thos	" 17	100 Silver dollars Sent
79	Stevens B F	Aug 29	Thanks for report on Metric Weights &c
88	Spinner F E	Sept 28	Mint value of English Sovereigns about $4.82.5
93	Stevens B F	Oct 5	Enclosing Bill of Exchange
138	Spinner F. E. Hon	Dec 11	Draft for granulated Silver
144	" " " "	" 14	$2000 for Small coin
145	" " " "	" "	Spanish Doubloons net value of
192	" " " "	" 31 1869	Relation to Dollars and half dollars Silver
201	Sheneman S	Jany 22	Amt of gold in the U S for last 3 years
248	Snowden, A.L.	Feby 5	Amt of cent coinage since July 1st 1869
259	Smith A H Dist Atty	" 7	Annual Assay
266	Spinner Hon F E	" 16	Enclosing Circulars
286	" " "	" 26	Counterfeit pieces sent for examination
289	Scott Hon John	" 28	Number of counterfeits among small coin
317	Silliman & Dana	March 11	Sillimans Journal
339	Spinner F E.	" 23	Dft for $200. for rec'd Coins will be sent
340	Silliman & Dana	" 23	Enclosing $6.00 for Journal
346	Spinner F E	" 30	Profits on Medals $2.000. transferred
374	Smith A P	April 22	Amt of Legal Tender of Small coins
387	Spinner F E. Treas U S	May 5	5¢ piece is counterfeit
452	" " " "	Aug 16	Copies of cent circulars
464	" " " "	Sept 10	Spurious 5. gold piece, correspondence
466	Sylvester J. W.	" 15	Peruvian Cents were made in Waterbury Conn

Page	Address	Date	Subject
9	Thayer C. P. Agt	May 17	No advice of Bag Sold Dust for $1000
33	Trevor & Colgate	June 7	Rule for paying Silver Bullion
141	Teeter & P.	Dec 13	first issue of cents
152	Terrell Hon W. H. H.	" 16	Profile likeness of Genl Jackson
321	Torrey Prof John	March 16	Copies of Prof Booth & Mr Eckfeldt's
"	" " "	" "	opinions of Miller's patent for Refining
325	Townsend & Lyman	" 21	Mexican dollar halves & quarters can be
"	" " "	" "	re-coined into U.S. halves at a profit
347	Tappan C. W	" 30	coinage & circulation of whole Silver dollars
448	Tuttle Hon L P	Aug 9	transfer check for $600. nc o/c
475	" " " "	Oct 14	3¢ Nickels forwarded to day

Page	Address	Date	Subject
12	Van Mart McCoy & Co	May 18	Price of Nickel in gold
57	Vela Z M	July 15	Small Coin for Govt of Guatemala
59	" " "	" 21	do " " " " "
61	" " "	" 29	" " " " " "
75	" " "	Aug 9	Cannot comply with his request
208	Van Hoffman L. & Co	Jany 24 1870	Enclosing Copy of Annual Report

Page	Address	Date	Subject
13	Wood Isaac F	May 19	Johnson Medalets
54	Williams A T	July 7	Gold deposited by R Borler
73	Weir W	Aug 9	Coining but little Silver at present
80	Whigan John	" 30	Gold dust not yet rec^d
92	Whitehall John M	Oct 5	Intrinsic value of half dollars of 1869
132	Wiechmann E. G.	Dec 3	Relation to $50 gold piece
155	Wiswell Thaddeus	" 17	Silver dollars for $300 in gold
199	" "	1876 Jany 19	Express recpt for Gold & Silver dollars
319	Webster Merrick & Co	Mch 14	Gold not yet arrived
369	Weener E.	April 12	ten cts worth of gold in a ton of galena
431	Webster Musick & Cuniffee	July 5	Returns for gold could not be forwarded
	" " "	" "	for want of instructions

Page	Addres	Date	Subject
457	Zeller O.C	Aug 29	Nuggets of gold not yet arrived

May 3d 9

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secy of the Treasury
Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ult, enclosing letter (with my Commission) to the District Attorney of the U.S. in this City.

I handed the same to him, - took the oath required - received the Commission, and on the 2nd inst. entered upon my duties as Director of the U.S. Mint at Philadelphia.

I found the number of employees in the Mint to be very largely in excess of the necessities of the Institution - an excess so large as to be without justification or excuse.

I at once ordered a reduction, and

discharged over 125 of the employees male and female.

I will endeavor to manage the Institution with economy and efficiency.

Be pleased to present to the President my thanks for his kindness and confidence in making the appointment, and accept for yourself, the assurance of my highest respect.

Yours Very Respectfully

J. W. Pollock

Director

May 3d 9

Sir

On the first inst, I appointed Henry C. Hickok Esq. of this City, my Chief Clerk, subject to the approval of the President of the U.S., in the place of Arthur Thacher Esq. resigned.

Mr Hickok is a gentleman of the highest integrity - a true and loyal man - educated, intelligent, and in every respect well qualified for the position. He has my entire confidence and respect. Will you be pleased to procure the approval of the President as required by Law, see Sec. 3d of Act of Jany 18. 1837. Establishing a Mint &c.

Yours Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Sec'y Treas'y

May 6. 9

Sir,

I respectfully request that you will direct a copy of the Appropriation Bill for the Coming Fiscal Year to be forwarded to me; or, if it is not yet printed, a transcript of such portions as have reference to the U.S. Mint and Branches, and the respective Assay Offices.

I understand some material modifications have been made, of which it is desirable I should inform myself at an Early day.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
J. W. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury

May 10. 9

Sir,

In compliance with your letter of April 5th - received the 7th inst. - I will inquire into the existing arrangements for the purchase of nickel for the mint, and report to you fully on the subject at the earliest practicable moment.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
J. C. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

May 11 9

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your attention in forwarding the Valuable Report of British Coinage; also two Catalogues of recent sales of Antique coins.

Hereafter please address letters or packages to James Pollock, Director U. S. Mint.

Very respectfully your ob. servant

Jas. Pollock

Director

B. F. Stevens Esq.
U. S. Agent in London

May 15 9

Sir,

I am today in [illegible] of your letter of the 6th inst. advising me of sight draft from your [illegible] $4,249.90 in Coin, [illegible] of assay Coins as per report of the Commission, [illegible] order. It will be duly [illegible] tation.

Very [illegible]

J. W. Pollock
Director

Robert B. Swain, Esq.
Supt Br Mint
San Francisco

May 15 9

Sir,

I have today received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury, as per your request of the 5th inst., your report of the Count and Examination of monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at San Francisco, on the last day of April, 1869

Very Respectfully

J. W. Ellery
Director

Robert B. Swain, Esq
Supt. U. S. Br. Mint
San Francisco
California

May 17 9

Sir,

In reply to your letter of inquiry of the 14th inst. I have to say that I have no "letter of advice concerning a bag of gold dust value $1,000 from some point in New Mexico."

Very Respectfully
Jas. Pollock
Director

C. P. Thayer, Agent
United States Express Company
New York

May 17. 9

Sir,

On the 8th inst., I sent you a requisition for the sum of $48,400. for the 4th quarter Fiscal Year Ending June 30th 1869, payable out of the Appropriations for the Support of this Institution for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1. 1868.

On the 15th inst I received Mas-ury draft No. 1481 (Masury proper) for the sum of $46,787.00 being $1,613.00 less than the requisition, and the balance of the appropriation, as it stands on the books of the Mint. Please advise me of the reason for this discrepancy.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Sot.
Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Masury

May 18. 9

Gentlemen,

What was the average price in gold, of Nickel, during the months of January, February and March 1869 respectively?

Please favor me with a reply at your earliest convenience and oblige

Yours Respectfully

J. W. Pollock
Director

Mess Van Wart, McCoy & Co.
New York

May 19 9

Isaac F. Wood Esqr.

Sir

I have received two "Johnson Medalets", with your note, addressed to Dr. Linderman, the late Director. They will be placed among the political or personal medals, of which the Mint Cabinet has very few.

Respectfully yours

J. W. Pollock
Director.

May 19 9

Isaac R Ward Esq.

Sir

I have received two "Johnson Medalets," with your note, addressed to Dr. Linderman, the late Director. They will be placed among the political or personal medals, of which the Mint Cabinet has very few.

Respectfully yours

Jas. Pollock
Director.

24 May 9

Dear Sir

In reply to your inquiries I have to say.

1. There is no charge for assaying silver for coinage. The charges for refining are intended merely to cover the expense, without profit; but it is desirable for all parties that the mining companies should send their silver in a purer state than 618 fine. Such silver, being usually alloyed with several metals, and some of them very refractory, is variously charged from 2½ to 5 cts per ounce, according to condition. It is probable that the companies could save themselves a part of this expense by paising their silver to a higher fineness

in large operations

2. Silver 990 fine, intended for coinage, is liable to no charge for refining.

3. Much of the Nevada silver contains enough gold to part profitably; in this case silver 6/8 fine would have an additional charge of 3½ cts per ounce; if 990 fine 1½ cts per ounce.

4. In case whole dollars are asked for (or fine bars) there is a further Mint charge of one half of one per cent of the value. In case pieces of 50 cents or less are required, there is no such charge, but the mint pays at a rate which produces a somewhat larger seignorage.

Depositors know best their own

interest, in ordering whole dollars or fractions; but it is important they should understand that they receive one and a half per cent more in weight by taking dollars, than by taking less pieces. In certain states of demand, this difference may or may not be overcome in the market.

4 All deductions are in silver, not currency.

5. The Assay Office at New York does not execute coinage.

Respectfully Yours &c

Jas. P. Kimball
Director.

To
John B Collins Esq.
Utica
NY

May 27 69

Sir

In compliance with your letter of instructions of the 18th inst, I send you to day, by Express, for presentation to the Government of the Netherlands, two cases, each containing duplicate setts of the coins of the United States, other than the gold and silver coins.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Svt

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

May 27 9

Sir

Your letter of the 25th inst. received this morning.

The one you refer to had better be assayed, and sent to us in bars, for coinage.

Very Respectfully

J. W. Pollock

Assist.

J. R. Bruce, Esq

100 Commercial Street

Boston Mass.

May 27. 9

Sir,

Your letter of the 26th inst. has been received and filed for reference

We have a six months supply of Copper now on hand.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock
Director

F. W. Capers, Esq
Treas. Evergreen Bluff Mining Co
44 Exchange Place
New York

June 1st 9.

Sir

The usual monthly count and examination made at the close of business yesterday, 31st ult, exhibited the following balance in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, viz

In Gold	$219.820.00
" Silver	57.295.04.
Ordinary Acc	48.333.13
Copper Fund	118.466.83
Br. Mint San Francisco	9.410.94
" Denver	65[illegible].41.
" Carson City	280
	$454.366.57

corresponding with [illegible] as stated on that Officers Books of account.

[illegible]

the same time made into the general condition and working of the Mint, and it was ascertained that the business of the Institution was conducted in a careful and satisfactory manner.

Very Respectfully
Your Ob't Serv't

Director.

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D. C.

June 1st 9

Sir

Pursuant to law and the regulations of the Department, I made examination at the close of business yesterday, 31st ultimo, of the Books, Accounts and monies on hand in the Office of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States, and found the following balance, viz.

Coin	$3,736.652.00
Lawful money	1.282.754.43
Total	$5.019.406.43

which corresponds with his statement of account for that day.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Svt

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

June 2d 9

Sir

Respectfully referring to your letter of instructions of April 5th,- rec'd on the 6th of May- I herewith transmit a statement of all the Nickle purchased for the Mint from October 1st 1866, to May 10th 1869.

I also enclose copies of communications from Joseph Wharton, of Camden, New Jersey; and from Messrs Schifflin & Co., and Van Wart, McCoy & Co., of Newyork. Messrs Wharton and Fleitman, named in the statement, and Mr Jos. Wharton, represent the American Nickle; and the other parties the imported Article.

(Sometimes)

Sometimes, as you will see by the statement, a higher price was paid for American Nickel than for that received from abroad; but in the outcome, the competition between the two has resulted in a very material reduction in the price of Nickel, and a large saving to the Government.

I respectfully refer you to the enclosed testimony of the Melter and Refiner as to the relative quality of the American Nickel.

I do not see that there would be any material advantage in advertising for proposals as suggested. I believe the interests

of the Government can be fully protected, and advantageous Contracts made, by direct correspondence with the respective dealers in the Article

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Svt
Jas Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D.C.

June 2. 9

Sir,

In reply to your letter of May 27th, I have to state that we do not deal in the Ore of Nickel, but buy only the metal.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

Rufus Alexander, Esq

Farmington, Mo.

June 4. 9

Sir,

Your letter of the 3d inst. received this morning.

We are not purchasing Nickel at present, having a sufficient supply on hand for some months to come. I will thank you however to advise me of the price at which you propose to furnish it.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

C. Robbins, Esq
104 John Street
New York

June 5th 9

Sir

The Director of the Mint respectfully returns this letter to Thos. Spinner with the remark that there is no such Coin in the Mint Collection, nor does it appear to be described in the best Catalogues.

It is no doubt one of the early Colonial pieces, or attempts to make a pattern cent (not in the Mint however) but its decayed condition, and want of date, a legend renders it of very little interest or value

Respectfully Yours
Jas. Pollock
Director

T. E. Spinner Esqr
Treasurer
U. S.

By Telegraph

U S Mint, Phila June 5. 9

Mr St. Ferris,
Acting Asst Meas US
New York
Five cent pieces will be sent
you on Monday
Jas. Pollock
Director
per H. C. Hickok
Chief Clerk

Paid

June 7th 9

Sir

In compliance with your request of the 4th inst, I herewith respectfully transmit Statement of Nickel purchased for the Mint from January 1st 1862, to October 1st 1866

From 1862 to 1866 much of the Foreign Nickel was admitted by order of the Secy of the Treasury, free of duty, and the price paid to the importer was the Market value in Gold less the duty; and this accounts for the difference in the price paid for the foreign and the domestic article.

Very Respectfully Yours &c

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secy of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

June 7 9

Gentlemen,

In reply to your letter of the 3d inst, I have to state that our rule is to pay out for silver bullion, Bars not less than 999½ fine. We make Bars from 30 ounces to 200 ounces.

If bullion is deposited in large amounts, we usually make return in large bars, but can return a portion of a large deposite in smaller bars.

We return the fine Bars for the bullion, generally, in from

three to five days, depending upon what kind of bullion is deposited, and the amounts

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Messrs
Fenn & Colgate
47 Wall Street
New York

June 8 9

Sir

In reply to your two letters of May 21st and June 3rd respectively, I have to say that I duly received two bags of Nickel and one of Bronze — weighing Nickel 33 lbs — and have to day sent you, per Adams Express, five cent pieces to the amount of $32.34

I also return you 52 Nickel cents, being a fraction of a pound. We do not redeem less than ten pounds in one lot, nor any fraction of a

pound over that amount.
I further return to you
9 3/4 lbs Bronze cents, there
being no law authorizing
their redemption."

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock
Director

W. F. Benton, Esq
Gloversville
Fulton Co. N. Y.

June 9 9

Sir,

On the 2nd inst. I shipped to you by rail, a box, containing

1 American Flag
6 Copper granulating cups
6 Glass pipettes
2 Assay tongs
2 do Shears.

And on the 4th inst. by rail,

1 Band Muffles

You order of the 2nd inst for a Flag, arrived yesterday, but as you will see above, had been anticipated.

Very Respectfully
Jas. Pollock
Director

Geo. W. Lane, Esq
Supt Penna B. Mint

June 11. 9

Sir

In compliance with your request of the 9th inst I send you to-day two copies of the latest Edition of the Mint Laws, and four of the Regulations.

Very Respectfully Yours

J. A. Rush
Director

T. L. Smith, Esq
First Auditor of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

June 15. 9

Sir,

I have today received your letter of the 4th inst. enclosing Express receipt for Box of Assay Coin from your Branch for the month of May, 1869 = $355.

Very Respectfully

Director

Robert B. Swain, Esq
Supt U.S. B. Mint
San Francisco, Cal

June 16 9

Sir,

I regret to say that the Specimens of mineral enclosed in your letter of the 9th inst, are merely sulphuret of iron, without any trace of metal; and of no value.

Very Respectfully

Director

Rufus Alexander, Esq.
Farmington, Me.

June 17. 9

Sir,

The "One Hundred Am Silver Dollars dated 1869" ordered in your letter of the 12th inst. in Exchange for $108 Am Silver, have been sent to you today by Express.

Very Respectfully
Jas. Pollock, Director
per H C Hickok
Chief Clerk

Thomas Squires, Esq
Albany, N.Y.

June 19. 9

Sir

Your package of the 2nd inst. about which you enquire in your letter of the 12th inst, was duly received; and on the 8th inst $516.56 Gold, sent you by Express, in return.

Very Respectfully
Jas Pollock, Director
per H. C. Hickock, Chf Clk

J. F. Jones, Esq
Louisburg N. C.

June 19. 9

Sir,

Your letter of the 18th is at hand this morning. We receive such bullion as you describe, as a matter of accommodation, but we charge fully for it, and Mining Companies ought, in justice to themselves, to send a more creditable article.

Silver bullion 990 fine, is worth 128 cents per Oz. if paid in whole dollars; or 134 cents, paid in smaller pieces.

Very Respectfully
Jas. Pollock
Director
per H C Hickok
Chief Clerk

John D. Collins, Esq
Utica, N. Y.

June 22 9

Sir,

In the temporary absence from the City of Ex-Gov. James Pollock, now Director of the Mint, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst, which will be laid before the Director immediately on his return tomorrow or next day.

Very Respectfully
H C Kirkbo
Chief Clerk

James B. Francis, Esq
Am Academy of Arts & Sciences
Boston, Mass.

June 24 9

Dear Sir

The Rumford Dies, referred to in your letter of the 19th, were received yesterday. They are somewhat tarnished, not to say corroded, by the coating of tallow, too long kept on, and chemically altered. Wax is better. However, a repolish will put them in order.

According to our measure, their diameter is 2½ inches. By making the planchet ¼ inch thick (more accurately 26 hundredths) the weight of fine gold would be 14 ozs., = $289.40, leaving for a silver medal of equal dimensions which would weigh about 7.60 ozs., at 136 cents, say $10.33; the two making 300 dollars (gold value) as near as may be.

This would not be too thick, especially as the relief of the effigy is high. But the same weight of metal would make a medal of 2¾ inches diameter, 3/13ths (strictly 21½ hundredths) thick, which is ordinarily used for that diameter

The foregoing facts will enable you to act upon your own judgment, as to the best mode of "conforming to the directions of the Founder." New dies, of either diameter, would probably cost $ 300, currency.

Your dies can be left in custody of the Mint, if you wish it.

Very respectfully yours
Jas. Pollock
Director.

James B. Francis Esq.
American Academy of
Arts & Sciences,
Boston

P.S. Of course the Mint charge for preparing the planchets from refined gold and silver, & striking the ~~Act~~ medals, will be extra to the foregoing estimates.

June 28th 9

Geo Eyster Esqr

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter of the 24 inst. inquiring what will constitute an average Six Months supply of Nickel: also the amount at present on hand.

I have to say that we have now about 6000 pounds equal to five months supply; and that an additional amount of 25.000 pounds will at the present rate of consumption, be a full average supply for Six months, As we will be under the necessity of suspending in part the operations of the Mint, during the greater portion of July the consumption of Nickel for that month will not exceed 2500 pounds, it may be less.

Yours Very Respectfully

Jas Pollock

Director

July 1st 9

Sir

Yours of the 28th June is received and in reply State. We send herewith a circular, which will make you acquainted with the proceedings at the Mint in reference to your Silver. The whole amount must be melted before assay; and if the assay shows gold contained, you will be allowed for its value. If you wish the return in commercial fine bars, stamped, the Charge will be 1/2 cent per Ounce if the metal is 980 thous. (or more) fine, and more as the fineness is lower. If you with the return in half dollars or less, the Mint makes no Charge for Coinage, but pays at the rate of 122 1/2 Cents per Ounce 900 fine. There is no separate Charge for assay

Respectfully Yours

Director

H. Knippenberg Esq
Sec'y & Treas.
Indianapolis
Ind.

July 1. 9

Sir,

The usual monthly count and Examination made at the close of business yesterday, the 30th ultimo, Exhibited the following balances in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, viz.

In Gold	$ 865,827.72
" Silver	47,368,63
Ordinary Account	28,618,98
Copper Fund	176,969,80
Br. Mint, San Francisco.	9,410.94
" " Denver,	657.41
" " Carson City,	158.16
	$ 429,804.64

Corresponding with the balance as stated on that Officers books of account.

Examination was at the same time made into the general Condi-

-tion and working of the Mint, and it was ascertained that the business of the institution was conducted in a careful and satisfactory manner.

Very Respectfully Your

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

July 1. 9

Sir,

In pursuance of law and the regulations of the Department I made Examination at the close of business yesterday, the 30th ultimo, of the Books, Accounts and Money on hand in the Office of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States, and found the following balances, viz.

Coin	$ 5,224,387.65
Annual Int. Treasy. Coin	7,050.00
7-30 Coupons	29.00
Mutilated Notes	15,247.78
Cents	740.00
Fractional Currency	184,456.00
Notes	1,670,048.47
Total	$ 7,101,959.10

which corresponds with his Statement

Statement of account for that day.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Polwell

Director

Hon Geo S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

July 3. 9

Sir,

The mineral specimens accompanying your letter of June 24th are not ore, but an artificial alloy composed of Copper, lead and tin (bell metal or bronze)

There is no charge for the assay in this instance.

Respectfully Yours

[illegible]

Director

Henry Errett, Esq

Mt. Vernon, O.

July 7. 9

Sir,

In reply to your letter of June 23rd, I have to state that on the 11th day of November, 1868, Reuben Borden deposited 115 90/100 oz gold, for coining; and on the same day Geo. W. Borden, deposited 49 29/100 oz. gold for a like purpose.

Respectfully Yours

Director

A. J. Williams, Esq.

Helena, Montana

July 10 9

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 7th inst; I refer you first to the enclosed rules of the Mint, with regard to deposits and depositors; and have to say that Mint Receipts having been lost in the Mail, and depositors subjected to great trouble, on that account, (as we require a Bond in double the amount of the receipt before paying when Certificate is lost a deposit,) the Express Co., had instructed their Agent h . . , ot to send the receipts, and the Mint had acted on this rule. I now however modify the regulations so far as to say, that

the receipt will be sent hereafter at your risk if you so request it, but not otherwise.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

" Director

D. C. Eells

Cashier Lee Co. Nat. Bk.

Dixon

Illinois

July 15. 9

Sir,

In the temporary absence of the Hon. James Pollock, Director of the Mint, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 14th ult. with regard to proposed small coinage for the Government of Guatemala.

The Director will be here in a few days, and will give your inquiries due consideration and reply. In the meantime will you please to inform us further

1. Whether our present alloy 1/10 ths nickel with 3/4 ths. Copper, would be acceptable to your Government? It is more difficult to work than copper, and for that reason less likely to be counterfeited. It has also a greater intrinsic value.

2. What amount of coinage, either

in value or in pieces, you would probably desire?

I am, Very Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant,
H. C. Hickok
Chief Clerk

To the
Hon. J. M. Vela
Chargé d'affaires ~~pro tem~~
Guatemala & Salvador
New York

July 21 9

Sir

Ex. Gov. Pollock, Director of the Mint, not having yet returned from the White Mountains, I have the honor to state, in reply to your letter of the 20th inst, received this morning, that the value of the metals in one of our five cent pieces, is only three-fourths of one cent, paper money, say about 55/100 of one cent in gold money. The cost of making a single piece, either of that or other sizes, is about as much more.

We do not consider it wise to make them larger, merely with a view to increase the metallic

value, and to prevent counter-feiting. It would have no such preventive Effect. Counterfeiters do not care how large the piece is. They work with very little machinery, generally with plaster moulds and type-metal alloys, and if they can make a tolerable imi-tation to pass upon careless persons, or in the dark, they are satisfied. The best security is to have well-struck pieces, from highly artistic dies. The other matters will be replied to by the Director on his return.

Very Respectfully Yours

H C Hickok

Chief Clerk

Hon J. M. Vela.
Charge D'Affaires
for Guatemala &c.
New York

July 29. 9

Sir

On my return from a temporary absence, your written request to execute a coinage of one, two and three cent pieces for your Govt, was laid before me. The replies ad interim which were sent by my clerk, are entirely approved, and I repeat the suggestion, that the coins could either be made of the nickel alloy which we use for 3 and 5 cent pieces (¼ nickel, ¾ copper), or of the bronze alloy which we use for 1 and 2 cent pieces (95 parts copper, 3 zinc, 2 tin). The former has a higher intrinsic value, and could be made smaller on that account; the latter is less likely to be

counterfeited by the process of moulding. In either case, the value of the metals is of little account; it is the authority of law, making the coins a legal tender, which gives them their value. It would give me great pleasure to comply with your request, and I only hesitate for want of a legal provision in the case. I shall however, forward the correspondence to the Secretary of the Treasury, and if he considers that he has authority to authorize the Mint to execute this work, and will do so, I will then give you estimates of sizes, cost &c, and make further arrangements as you may wish.

Very Respectfully Yours

Wm Pollock
Director

Hon J. M. Vela
Charge d' Affaires from Guatemala
and Salvador; New York

July 29 9

Sir

I beg leave to call your attention to the enclosed correspondence with Hon J. M. Vela, Charge d' Affaires of Guatemala and Salvador.

I would also offer the following suggestions, as reasons in favor of complying with his request.

1. It will be impossible for them to get an Artistic coinage nearer than from England, unless we do it.

2. It is desirable to oblige and conciliate a friendly American Government; letting it be understood that it is a favor.

3. If they choose the nickle alloy we have an overstock of that

metal, and it will be a good outlet.- It will also give us work in a slack time, for it must be bargained that we shall take our time to it, and not postpone our own business.

4. The amount they want will not exceed three month's work, after the dies are ready. Bronze coinage could be done in less time.

5. The British Government has been in the habit of doing the same work for other Governments,- Venezuela, Portugal &c.

It will be proper to offer them a choice between the bronze and nickel mixtures. The former is really harder to imitate than the latter, if the cheap process of moulding is used. The wear and tear of dies &c

would be far less in working bronze, and we could do them at a less cost.

A copper coinage was executed somewhere in New England, a few years since, for a South American Government. The pieces were more like buttons than coins, as must be expected outside of a Mint. All the varieties of cent tokens made in New York and elsewhere, are such as we would not wish to see carried to another country. We can furnish estimates of cost &c, and what we should charge, provided the Department should concur in the foregoing views.

As there is no law authorizing the U. S. Mint to execute the

coinage of a Foreign Government, I have referred this matter to you; If you approve, and will authorize the work to be done as requested by the Hon Mr Vela, we will cheerfully undertake it

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D.C.

July 30. 9

1.

First Time 70

Forty Eight Thousand

Three Hundred and Seventy five ——

July 1st 69

9,475.—
31,250.—
6,250.—
— 150.—
1,250.—
$ 48,375.—

Geo S. Boutwell

J. L. Pollock
Director

P. S. We have this day transferred

to the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Philadel-phia, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000) on account of profits from the Coinage of One, two and three Cent pieces.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

To the

Secretary of the Treasury

August 2. 9

Sir,

On the 31st of July, ult. I made the usual monthly count and examination of money in the hands of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at this point, with the following result, viz.

Notes	$ 1,742,092.00
Fractional currency	86,774.32
Demand notes	190.00
Gold certificates	209,920.25
do Coin	3,558,734.00
Silver do.	82,010.00
Temporary loan	666.00
Coupons	1,197,587.90
7-30 Coupons	40.15
Total	$ 6,878,014.62

which corresponds with the Asst Treasurer's books and accounts.

Very Respectfully Yours

J. W. Pollock

Director

Hon Geo S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

August 2 / 9

Sir,

On the 31st ult. I made the usual monthly count and examination of monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result, viz.

Gold	$ 351,118.29
Silver	39,422.46
Ordinary Fund	19,067.36
Copper funds	107,463.02
Branch Mint, San Francisco	9,410.94
" " Denver	790.73
" " Carson City	2,218.84
Total	$ 559,491.64

which corresponds with the Treasurer's books and accounts.

The Mint and its appurtenances are in good condition, except that the coining operations are temporarily

suspended to put in new boilers

Very Respectfully Yours

J. A. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

August 2. 9

Sir,

The Silver bars referred to in your letter of July 31st, received this morning, can be sent direct to the Mint, from the mill in Nevada, through the Express Company, acting as your Agent. The enclosed circular will give you the further information called for.

Respectfully Yours

J. W. Pollock

Director

Micah Dyer jr, Esq Mas.

Lane & Fuller Silver Mining Co.

Boston, Mass.

August 9. 9

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 5th inst. I can only say that it is certain we are coining but little silver, and do not know what becomes of it, after it leaves the Mint. The whole dollars, however, are chiefly melted up by Silversmiths.

Any person sending silver to the Mint, can have it coined; or it can be made into fine bars stamped; which is now frequently done.

The silver coins of the United States have no gold value fixed by law; unless it may be said that the gold dollar and silver dollar (whole) are Equal, as being Equally legal tenders. In the

market

market, the silver dollar is of greater value. The pieces of half dollar and less are only a legal tender to the amount of five dollars.

The enclosed circulars may interest you somewhat.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

W. Weir, Esq
Banker
Montreal
Canada

August 9 9

Sir,

In accordance with my promise to you in my last Communication, I duly submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, your application for the Execution of Small Coinage for the Government of Guatemala; and herewith Enclose a Copy of his reply. I regret that the want of Lawful authority, prevents compliance with the wishes of your Government in this regard.

I am Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon. J. M. Vale

Chargé d'affaires from

Guatemala & Salvador

August 6th 9

Rev Greville J. Chester

Rev and dear Sir

I have just had the pleasure of receiving the Collection of Coins, Chiefly English and Anglo-Hibernian which you have presented to the Cabinet of this Mint.

A number of them are such as we have not, and others are in better condition than what we have.

We shall take time to give them a more deliberate examination, and meanwhile I hasten to return you my thanks for this liberal token of your good will, and ask in what way we can reciprocate, to your satisfaction

Very truly yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

U S Mint

Chiefly Face

Aeropol Paint

Wake England

Mint of the United States. 76

Philadelphia, August 6th 1869

Rev Greville J. Chester

Rev and dear Sir

I have just had the pleasure of receiving the Collection of Coins, Chiefly English and Anglo-Hibernian which you have presented to the Cabinet of this Mint.

A number of them are such as we have not, and others are in better condition than what we have.

We shall take time to give them a more deliberate examination, and meanwhile I hasten to return you my thanks for this liberal token of your good will, and ask in what way we can reciprocate, to your Satisfaction

Very truly Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

U.S. Mint

Checkeley Hall

Newport Pagnel

Bucks England

Augt 17. 9

Sir,

The coin described in your letter of the 9th inst. is an English penny of King George III, "maundy money" - small pieces distributed by the King to the poor on Maundy Thursday, every year; Each person receiving a small white bag containing as many pieces as the King number years in age; It is common. Intrinsic value about two cents. We have pennies of the same kind in Ohio

Cabinet of the Mint.

Respectfully Yours

J. P. Kennedy

Director

Mr. Geo. F. Davis,

Indianapolis, Ind.

August 28 9

B. F. Stevens Esq.

Dear Sir

I thank you for sending the Report on Metric Weights. It is of special interest at this time, and will probably be noticed in my next Annual Report; a copy of which will be sent to you.

I have also to thank you for the Priced Catalogue of Coins, giving information that we are occasionally asked for.

I notice your bill enclosed, the two making 5/6; please inform me whether any previous items are unpaid, and make up an account when it suits you. I am obliged to you for your attention in these matters.

Very respectfully

Ja. Pollock

Dir.

Augt 30. 9

Sir,

The gold dust mentioned in your letter of the 23rd inst has not yet been received at the Mint.

Respectfully Yours
Jas. Pollock, Director
per H C Dickert, Chief Clerk

Mr John Whigam
Cleveland, O.

Sept 1. 9

Sir,

On yesterday, the 31st of August, I made the usual monthly count and Examination of monies in the hands of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Philadelphia, with the following result, viz.

Gold	$4,036,743.49
Silver	82,361.00
Gold notes	219,840.00
7-30 Coupons	9,12
Interest on temporary loan	16,668,00
Fractional Currency (old issue)	150,952.00
Notes	2,664,852.07
Total	$7,171,425.68

Which corresponds with the Assistant Treasurer's books

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury

Sept 1. 9

Sir,

I yesterday, August 31st, made the usual monthly Count and Examination of moneys in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result.

Gold	$ 249,381.50
Silver	28,018.79
Ordinary fund	57,416.93
Copper fund	112,386.30
San Francisco Branch	9,396.54
Denver do	3,048.73
Carson City do	1,380.59
	$ 461,029.38

The Mint resumed operations on Thursday, August 19th, and is in good working order throughout.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury

Sept 7.

Sir

In your Invoice of Silver Bullion No 23. of Sept 6/69, you have not given us the sources from which deposits, from 705 to 793 were derived.

Please advise us, as it is necessary for us to have them in making up our melts &c.

Yours Truly

J. P. Pollock
Director

Geo. F. Dunning Esq.
Supt U. S. Assay Office
New York

(Ent X 84

Sept 7th 9

Sir

In compliance with your request of the 6th inst, I herewith mail to your official address, copies of the Annual Printed Reports of the Director of the Mint for the years 1859, -60- 63- 64 - 66 - 67 and '68 respectively.

The annual Reports for other years are exhausted, and it is not in my power to furnish them

Very Respectfully

James Ross Snowden
Director

Hon John Jay Knox
Deputy Controller of the Currency
Washington
D.C.

Sept 16 9

I. Smith Stanton Jr. Esq
Pub. Banker's Magazine
41 Pine Street New York

Sir,

I enclose $5. to pay the enclosed bill for subscription to the Bankers Magazine, from July 1869 to June 1870.

Please return the bill duly receipted.

Respectfully yours

Jas. Conoy
Director

Sept 23 [illegible]

Sir

Your letter of the 20th inst, enclosing a small package of gold, has been recd.

The Mint does not receive deposits of gold of a less amount than one hundred Dollars, and never acts as agent for depositors.

Your package is so small that it would have to be sent to some private establishment to be assayed, and the proceeds sold to bullion dealers.

I enclose a Circular on the subject; but I would add that the Express Companies decline

to take charge of such small amounts.

How shall I return your package to you?

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Mr Jas. H. Daily
Burdett
Schuyler Co.
New York

Sept 28th 9

Sir

In reply to your inquiry of the 25th inst; there is some variation even in the averages of large lots of English Sovereigns; but as they come now, they are worth $4.85.0, as near as may be; from which is to be deducted, as a charge for re coinage, ½ per cent, making the net Mint value, say $4.82.5.

We always state values of foreign coins in this double way, because the charge is arbitrary, and if it should be altered, as no doubt it might be with justice, then the Mint rate would be altered, without any actual change in the coin itself

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas Pollock

Director

Hon T. E. Spinner
Treas. U. States
Washington D.C.

Oct. 1st 9

Sir

I yesterday, September 30th 1869, made the usual monthly count and examination of funds in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result:

Gold	$87.285.60
Silver	13.901.13
Ordinary Account	39.521.38
Cent Account	153.199.21
San Francisco	9.389.34
Denver	3.048.73
Carson City	1.173.84
Total	$307.519.23

The Mint is in good working order.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Oct 1st 9

Sir

I yesterday, September 30th, made the usual monthly count and examination of funds in the hands of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States, at Philadelphia, with the following result.

Coin Balance	$4.409.669.19
7 3/10 Coupons	74.82
Int. Temporary Loan, 3% ctfts	6.312.00
Fractional Currency	306.566.00
Notes	3.343.911.73
Total	$8.066.533.74

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Ellicott
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington DC

Ent.

Oct 1st 9

Sir

In compliance with your Circular letter of Sept 7th, I herewith transmit a List of the Officers and Agents employed in this Institution on the 30th day of September 1869; with the State or Country where born and appointed from, and the amount of compensation allowed to each.

Respectfully Yours

Jas Pollock
Director

Hon John Allison
Register of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Dec 5th 69

Sir

In the temporary absence of the Director of the Mint, I have the honor to state in reply to your verbal inquiry, that silver half dollars of the coinage of the United States executed in the year 1869, are of the same weight, fineness, and intrinsic value, as silver half dollars coined in the year 1854.

Very Respectfully Yrs.
H C Kirk
Director's Chief Clerk

John M. Whitehall Esq
Exec'r of D. Jayne M. D. dec'd

Mint of the United States
Philad.a October 5. 1869

Dear Sir

Herewith I enclose a Bill of Exchange, endorsed to your order, for £ 11 . 1 . 3, the amount of your Bill.

I must ask you to discontinue sending the Economist, with the end of the year. We only needed it to learn the mutty price of bullion, and this can be had at much less expence.

The Reports of Commissions on Coinage, Weights &c. are of great value to us, and some of the

articles lately published in the Times, possess some interest. You will please send any document of definite or authoritative action, on subjects of Coinage or Metrology.

Respectfully yours
Jas. Pollock
Director
per H.E. Nichols
Chief Clerk

B. P. Stevens Esq.

P.S. Please inform me of the receipt of this.

Oct. 13th 69

Sir

I herewith transmit estimates of funds needed for the support of the U. S. Mint and Branches for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1871.

I also transmit for your information, the original estimates received from the respective Branch Mints, and the Assay Office at New York, together with the accompanying letters of the Officers in charge.

No increase has been made in the estimates of the Mint for the regular operations, but, as you will see, an extra appropriation of $15.000, is recommended to replace the dilapidated columns of the portico in front of the Mint edifice;

and some other minor repairs.
This is not a new suggestion, but
has heretofore been under consid-
-eration by the Supervising
Architect, who can vouch for the
necessity of this proposed expen-
-diture

The increase of salary,
which, you will observe, is desired
for some of the officers of the
Branch Mint at Denver, Colorado,
meets my approval, and I
cheerfully recommend it to
the favorable consideration
of the Department and of
Congress.

Inviting your attention
also, to the explanatory
remarks accompanying the
Estimates for the New York
Assay Office, and the
Branch Mints at San Francisco,

and Carson City, I remain
Very Respectfully Yours
J. A. Collins
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

6 19. 9

2.

Second June 30. 69

Cancelled for Error.

Forty Eight thousand, Three Hundred & Seventy five

Sex

9,475.00
1,250.00
6,250.00
150.00
1,250.00
48,375.00

Next page

Geo. S. Boutwell

Jas. Pleock
Director

Oct. 13. 9

2. —

2nd June 30. 70

Forty Eight thousand
Three Hundred and Seventy five —

July 1st.	69	
	—	9,475.00
	—	31,250.00
	—	6,250.00
	—	150.00
	—	1,250.00
		$48,375.00

Geo. S. Boutwell

Jas. Collock
Director

Oct. 15 69

Sir

Your letter of the 7th instant, enclosing letters from George Eyster Esq. Treasurer of the Mint, and Joseph Wharton Esq. in relation to the purchase of 20.000 pounds of Nickle for the use of the Mint; and requesting my views upon the subject; has been received.

In reply, I have to say, that the demand for the three and five cent nickle coins, has greatly decreased; averaging now less than $60.000, per month, against $125.000, to $150.000 a few months ago. As a conse= =quence the present consump= =tion of nickle has decreased; and

in the future, I fear, will be still less. The present monthly consumption of nickle, as reported by the Melter and Refiner, is about 2000 lbs, with a prospect of a further decrease, unless the demand for nickle coin increases.

2d Our present stock of nickle, as reported by the Melter and Refiner, is twenty nine thousand two hundred and thirty eight pounds, or nearly fifteen tons.

As our consumption now is about 2000 pounds, or one ton per month, we thus have a supply at present rate of consumption, for fifteen months.

At the date of the last purchase of nickel from Mr Wharton

we had about 4000 pounds of
that metal on hand. I dis-
=covered soon after, in the
vaults of the Mint, from ten
to twelve tons of nickel cents,
redeemed by exchange for
three and five cent coin. These
cents contain 12 per cent nickel,
and are now being used in
the making of the three and
five cent coin. They, with
the 30.000 pounds purchased
June 23d 1869, gave us much
more than a six months
supply, at the then rate of
consumption, which was from
3000 to 4500 pounds monthly.

In view of our present
supply,- our reduced consump-
-tion; and decreased and
decreasing demand for the

4

nickel coin, there does not seem to exist any urgent necessity, for the purchase of the 20.000 pounds as now offered by Mr Wharton. In the presence of an open and falling market, I doubt the policy of large purchases of any material used for minting or other purposes.

As regards the price, $1.25 per pound in gold, I have this to say; that although we have been offered nickel of foreign manufacture at $1.18 to $1.20 in gold, yet to encourage our own manufactures, the price named by the Treasurer of the Mint, would not be objectionable; and if our supply was not so large,

and if the prospects of an increased consumption were better, a purchase at that price would not, under the circumstances be unreasonable.

Whilst earnestly desiring to promote the personal interests of Mr Wharton, I feel that my first duty is to the Government, and therefore cannot recommend the purchase at this time of any addi= =tional quantity of nickel. I have however stated the facts of the case for your consideration and action.

It will give me pleasure on all occasions, to furnish, if in my power, any information you may desire, on this or any other matter pertaining to the Mint or its Branches.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon'l Geo. S. Boutwell

Sec'y of the Treasury

Oct. 20th 9

Sir

I have the honor to acknowl-
-edge the receipt, this morning,
of the first volume of the House
Miscellaneous documents of
the 2d Session of the Fortieth
Congress; and have duly
placed the same in the
Library of the Mint

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Edward McPherson
Clerk Ho. of Reps. of the U. S.
Washington D.C.

Oct 28 9

Gentlemen

The seven hundred (700) ozs. foreign silver mentioned in your letter of the 27th inst, have been received, equal to 636.65 ozs Troy.

I regret to say that owing to the pressure upon the Mint at this time, we shall not be able to return the fine bars you ask for, in less than two weeks.

Yours Truly &c.

Jas. Pollock

Director

per. H. B. Nichols

Chief Clerk

Messrs

Jno. Jay Pardee & Co.

New York.

Oct. 30 9

Gentlemen

We pay deposits in the order in which they are received.

We can furnish the quarter and half dollars, referred to in your letter of the 29th inst., in about ten days or two weeks after your deposit is received.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

per H.C. Nichols

Cash'r

Messrs

Jno. Jay Pardee & Co.

11 Wall St

New York

Nov. 3rd 9

Gentlemen—

Your letter of the 2nd inst and the gold dust referred to, have been received —

The words "answer at once" which you quote as from my last telegram — were not used by me but were probably added by the operator by mistake — We cannot conveniently return you bars so small as $300 to $500 — but as a matter of accommodation, will endeavor to send you, say ten bars of about $500. and the rest $1000 to $1500 each — as the metal may permit; though we had rather not make any thing less than $1000 bars. If this will suit you please let me know.

The Mint Charges you, will get from the circulars herewith mailed to you —

Respectfully Yours &c.

[illegible]
Director

To
Messrs Geo. Opdyke & Co
New York

Nov. 4th 9

Sir

On Saturday October 30th, after business hours, I made the usual monthly count and examination of moneys in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result.

Gold		$204.026.50
Silver		8.762.48
Ordinary fund		79.007.20
Copper fund		125.773.61.
San Francisco, Br. Mint		9.240.03.
Denver	do	783.23
Carson City	do	1.173.84
Total		$428.766.89

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Ellwood

Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secy of the Treasury.

Nov. 4th 9

Sir

On Saturday October 30th, after business hours, I made the usual monthly count and examination of moneys in the hands of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States, with the following result.

Coin	$5.055.991.88
7 3/10 Coupons	186.11
Interest Temp. loan	43.500.00
Fract'l Currency	307.548.00
Notes	598.421.23
Total	$6,005.647.22.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Nov. 6. 9

Sir

On the 30th of September, 1869 I forwarded to you, by mail, my Annual Report of the operations of the Mint and its Branches, for the fiscal year ending June 30. 1869 but have not yet had any acknowledgement of its receipt by the Department.

Will you therefore please inform me at your earliest convenience, whether my Report has been received, and oblige

Yours Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

Washington D.C.

Nov. 9th 9

Gentlemen

In compliance with your request, the piece of silver enclosed in your letter of the 5th inst, has been duly assayed, and I enclose a certificate from the Assayer of the Mint, showing it to be .870 fine.

The Mint charges are .75 cents, which please permit.

Respectfully Yours

Director

Messrs

Bigelow, Kennard & Co.

Boston, Mass

Nov 11th 9

John J Knox Esq

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 8th inst, (together with the official letter of the Secretary of Treasury) was duly received.

I was pleased to hear that my annual Report had been found and that it had reached the Secretary of the Treasury

In answer to your questions 1st, that the item "Mint bars" 284.470.42 in Table C. is correct as showing the amount of gold deposited at the Assay Office in New York; but being a re-deposite of bars made at the Denver Br Mint is properly excluded from table R, having been already credited to the Denver Branch in their total deposits. To place that sum in the column of "Other Sources" would be duplicating the amount of gold

"domestic production" to that extent
2nd If by "refined gold deposited" you
mean gold refined and parted, then
every thing would be properly included
under that head, except U.S. and Foreign
bullion; Jewelers gold would be included.
3rd " Under the head of "Domestic production"
we include "bullion as it has been first
taken from the Earth or rock, and not
U.S. Coin or bars re-deposited." — native
bullion for the first time deposited &c.
4th " Bars received from the Assay Office
at New York and deposited here are includ-
=ded among the re-deposits.
5th " The Tables of Copper Coinage in the
Annual Reports of the Director of the Mint
furnish some Statistics relating to the
different kinds of Cent Coinage.
We can approximate the amount unre-
=deemed of the old Copper Cents. For
example: by the Tables of Copper Coinage
we find the amount of old copper cents

cents issued from 1793 - to 1857, the
date of their discontinuance,
in pieces 162.288.744
in value $ 1.622.887 ..
Redeemed, in value (See Table H.
Director Annual Repat for 1866) — 296.026 ..
Outstanding & Unredeemed, in value $ 1.326.861 ..

Nickel Copper & Bronze Cents.

Amount issued from 1857
to June 30th 1869 pieces 302.646.500
Amount in Value $ 3.026.465.00
Redeemed to June 30th 1869 360.947.32
Outstanding & Unredeemed, $ 2.665.517.68

Recapitulation

Old Copper Cents Unredeemed $ 1.326.861.00
Nickel & Bronze do 2.665.517.68
Total — $ 3.992.378.68

How many of the above have been lost or

or destroyed cannot be told, We have no data upon which we can found any certain conclusions on that point; the 2ct, 3ct & 5 cent pieces are not included in the above Statements.

I expect to be in Washington on Friday evening to see the President and Secretary of the Treasury on Official business and will be pleased to see you and have a little chat on Free Minting &c. If the Government will give adequate protection to domestic Manufactures and properly encourage the Shipment of Wheat, Cotton &c the gold and Silver of the Country will not be sent abroad in any large quantity, to equalize exchange and pay the heavy balances of trade so often against us.

I do not think that your views are very diffrent from mine on those important questions.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas Pollock

Director

Nov. 16. 9

Sir,

In compliance with your request of the 11th inst, I enclose Statement of the amount of gold from Virginia, deposited at the U.S. Mint, Philadelphia, and the U.S. Assay Office, New York, from the year 1848 to June 30th 1869, inclusive, making an aggregate of $1,604,022 44/100.

I am not able to give you the amount for each year, from 1848 to 1857.

Hoping that the Statement furnished may be sufficient for your purposes, I remain

Very Respectfully Yours

J. W. Ellwood
Director

Albert Rodney, Esq
Chairman Committee on Mines & the
Chamber of Commerce, Richmond, Va

Nov 17th 9

Sir

I have duly received your letter of the 13th inst, inquiring as to the best disposition you could make of Silver bullion from Nevada.

On due consideration, I am satisfied that you are doing the best that can be done for the interests of the parties consigning Silver to you. You get the full market value, and nothing would be gained by conversion into standard bars. Such bars are only useful to some manufacturers of plate; they would be of no advantage for exportation. Some Silversmiths, it is true, do procure whole dollars, to be immediately worked up into plate, because of the assurance of coin fineness; but you could not rely upon the

demand for this purpose. And again, it is becoming a fashion (absurdly enough) to make plate of the British or Sterling Standard, which is 925 fine; and for this purpose it would be a disadvantage to have bars or Coin 900 fine.

You have a right to some premium on the face value in gold, because the bars are stamped at the whole-dollar valuation or 116 4/11 cents per Standard ounce (129.29... per fine ounce) whereas the market value of Silver in London averages 120 cents gold, per Standard ounce; say 133 1/3 cents per fine ounce. This of course is not a steady price; but it is well enough to know that a Silver dollar, (not two half dollars) - or if you choose, the same weight of Silver in a Standard bar, is worth in the market about three per cent, at the maximum, more than a gold dollar. This vexatious inequality shows the folly of attempting to make gold and Silver to stand upon a fixed par; and the folly

of

of continuing to coin Silver dollars, which are are now doing (by Law) simply to have them melted down by Silversmiths as soon as they leave the Mint.

Respectfully Yours

Jas Pollock
Director

John Ott Esq
Cash Cashier Nat Bk of Commerce
Chicago. Ill

Nov. 19 9

Sir

The one hundred ounces (100 ozs) granulated silver ordered for the use of your Department, in your letter of the 17th inst, will be shipped tomorrow the 20th inst, to "L. E. Walker, Photo-grapher, U. S. Treasury Department", as per your instructions

Very Respectfully

J. A. Poleon
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington DC

Nov. 22d 9

Sir

Enclosed please find Express Receipt for 100 ozs granulated Silver for "L. E. Walker, Photo=-grapher, U. S. Treasury Depart=-ment", forwarded today in pursuance of your letter of instructions dated the 17th, inst.

I also enclose receipted Bill for the same, for $139, for which please remit coin Draft to my order

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon W. A. Richardson
Asst Secy of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Nov. 23d 9

Gentlemen

Your letter of the 16th inst was duly received, and contents noted.

In reply to your questions I have to say that gold is the same everywhere, and no matter whence obtained. As it comes from the mines, it is always alloyed more or less with silver; and thus its fineness is express-ed in degrees. When worked into coin or jewelry, copper alloy is added, in various proportions. Thus, when the gold is absolutely pure, or fine, that fineness is expressed by 1000; or by 24 carats in the old-fashioned way. In our coin

there are 900 parts fine gold, with 100 parts alloy; nearly all of it copper, the remainder silver. In British coin, there are 916⅔ parts fine gold, with 83⅓ parts alloy. Watch-cases, spectacle-frames &c, of the best quality, range from 16 to 18 carats fine; that is, 666⅔ to 750 parts per thousand. Ordinary jewelry is much below those grades. Thus you see how the terms "good gold" and "poor gold" have arisen; gold itself is essentially the same thing; but when mixed with inferior metals, it takes a character partly from its company.

Some of our gold coins are paler than others, tho' they are

precisely alike as to the propor=
=tion of gold; the difference lies
in the greater or less presence
of silver. Usually this is
taken out; but it cannot
always be, profitably. A
small amount of it, gives the coin
a better color; where copper is alone
used, the color is less like gold.

Should you have leisure to
visit the Mint, at any time, I will
take pleasure in showing you
the manipulations in our Assay
Department, which will make the
subject plainer to your mind.

I shall be pleased to have the
"Illustrated Central Park" which
you promise.

Respectfully Yours

J. A. Pollock
Director

Messrs F. J. Huntingdon & Co.
New York

Nov. 26th 9

Dear Sir

I herewith return with my thanks, the Copy of Dr. Linderman's Report of his inspection of the Western Branch Mints, which you kindly forwarded for my perusal.

Yours Truly

Jas. Pollock
Director

W. H. Coleman Esq.
Treasury Department
Washington D.C.

Nov. 29 9

Gentlemen

Your letter of the 27th inst, gives a correct understanding of the matter referred to. Strictly, the Sovereign, at its legal rates, is worth $ 4.86.69.

The book you sent has been received. Accept my thanks.

Respectfully Yours

Jno. Collord
Director

Messrs F. J. Huntington & Co.
New York

Nov 30th 9

Gentlemen

In reply to your two favors of the 26th and 29th inst, I have to say that we have now on hand a three to six months supply of Minnesota Copper; and I learn from the Miller and Refiner that we do not stand in any present need of other brands.

Thanking you for the information furnished in your letters

I remain

Very Respectfully

Jas. Tolloch

Director

Messrs Hendricks Bros.

New York

Dec 1st 9

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 29th ult., I have to say that the Mint did prepay the Express charges according to our rule, on the one hundred dollar shipment of one and five cent coin, sent you Nov. 26th; and enclosed you will find an order from the Express Agent here on the Express Company at your place, to refund the $2.10 unduly paid.

Respectfully Yours

Director

Dan'l G. Fort Esq.
Cash'r L. O. Nat. Bk.
Oswego. N. York

Dec. 1st 9

Sir

I yesterday, November 30th 1869, after business hours, made the usual monthly count and examination of monies in the hands of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States, with the following result.

Gold	$14.094.928
Silver	83.171.68
Demand Notes	250.
Gold Certificates	183.000.
Fractional currency	161.061.94
Coin Coupons	23.598.50
Currency Int.	6.150.
Notes	913.339.
Total	$5.465.499.12.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secy Treasury
Washington D.C.

Dec. 1st 9

Sir

I yesterday, November 30th 1869, after business hours, made the usual monthly count and examination of monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result.

Gold	$299.846.20
Silver	20.807.53
Ordinary Fund	69.592.12
Copper Fund	179.866.00
San Francisco, Br. Mint.	8.691.87
Denver, Br. Mint	699.33
Carson City, Br. Mint	1.120.59
Total	$580.623.64

Examination was at the same time made into the general condition and operations of the Mint, and the

Institution was found to be in good working order, and its business conducted in a careful and satisfactory manner.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secy of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Dec. 3 9

Sir

In reply to your inquiry of the 2d. inst, I have to state that the Mint has never struck any gold coin of a larger denomination than the double eagle, - twenty dollars.

In the early settlement of the State of California, private parties there struck a fifty dollar gold piece of octagonal shape for temporary local convenience; and I suppose this gave you the mistaken impression that the U.S. Mint issued coins of that size and value.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

E.G. Wiechmann Esq.
408 Broadway
N.York

Dec. 6th 9

Sir

In reply to your inquiry in relation to the old copper cents, I have to say, that the old cents, coined before 1857, were simply made of commercial copper, and therefore require no assay to answer your inquiry.

Owing to the want of room in the old Mint (in Seventh Street) as well as the abundance of work in gold and silver, it was the practice to obtain the copper blanks or planchets from manufacturers, ready for striking. For many years they were made at Birmingham England; afterwards, as our manufactures improved, we were able to supply ourselves at home, and were furnished from Taunton

Mass. The prices were not uniform, but in the later years, say about 1837 and after, we paid thirty cents per pound avd. in current money, or thirty two cents in coined cents. A great number were issued on the latter terms. To this cost of material &c, must be added the cost of coinage, packing-bags &c, which may be estimated at about 5 ¢ per pound, making the cost of production about 35 to 37 cts per pound. Those cents were never a legal tender, but of course they had a legal current value; and at seven dwts, or 168 grs to the cent, they rated 41 2/3 cents to the pound avd. They were, and are redeemed at that rate, in exchange for cents of nickel alloy, but they have nearly disappeared. When redeemed, they are only worth as old copper about 20 cts per pound

Very Respectfully Yours

Director

Jno. Jay Knox Esq.
Dep't Comptroller
Washington D.C.

Dec. 10th 9

Hon G. A. Finkelnburg

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 8th inst, enclosing letter of G. Mallinckrodt & Co., in relation to the purchase of acids for the Western Mints, has been received.

The Branch at San Francisco, is the only one of the Western Mints now in operation; and the acids for that Branch are supplied by the manufacturers in San Francisco, who have for some years been able not only to supply the demand, but at rates so low, that no Eastern Manufacturers can compete with them. No acid supplies have, for at least the past five years, been purchased for that Branch, either in Philadelphia or New York. The

Contract is generally for one year, on bids invited by the Superintendent, from the different Manufacturers, and allotted to the lowest bidder.

Contracts have been made in some years, at prices lower than those in the Eastern Cities. The Carson City Branch, and also the Branch at Dalles, will, in all probability be supplied from this source, when in operation.

It may be observed that San Francisco possesses unusual facilities for manufacturing acids. Sulphur is found in large quantities in her mountains, and arrangements are making by which a full supply of that article will be had almost at their own door. Nitrate of soda is found on the Western Coast of South America, in Chile and Peru, in such abundance as to supply the World, and is in fact the only source of supply. In there

two articles, Sulphur and Nitrate of Soda, which enter largely into the manufacture of sulphuric and nitric acids, San Francisco has the advantage of all Eastern and interior manufacturers. With sulphur at home, and Nitrate of Soda so near, and at so little cost, I would not be surprised to find the manufacturers of San Francisco and the Western Coast of California, competing with our Eastern Manufacturers in their own markets.

I am not able to state the prices now paid for Nitric & Sulphuric Acids; but if your friends will address a note to the Supt of the S. F. Branch, he will no doubt furnish them with such information on the subject of acids, as will enable them to determine whether it would be advisable to bid on the next year's Contract or not.

Yours Truly.

Director

Dec. 11. 9

Sir,

I am this morning in receipt of Draft No. 2628, Treasury proper, on the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Philadelphia for the sum of One Hundred and thirty nine Dollars, the amount of my bill for granulated Silver, furnished for the photographer of the Treasury Department by order of the Secretary of the Treasury, dated Nov. 17. 1869

Very Respectfully Yours

J. A. Polcoil
Director

Hon. F. E. Spinner,
Treasurer United States,
Washington D.C.

Dec 13 9

Dear Sir

Your letter of inquiry, addressed to the Treasury Department, has been referred to me.

A few specimen cents, of nickel alloy, bearing the Eagle, were struck in 1856. They were not a legal currency, and no record was kept of their number. In the next year they were legalized, and coined to a large amount. The annual report of 1857 gives 6,333,456 cent pieces up to June 30, the end of the fiscal year, of which 333,456 were the large coppers. By another printed table which extends to the end of the year, the number of nickel or eagle pieces is set down at 17,500,000, for 1857.

Yours truly

Jas. Pollock. Director

Geo: N. Foster Esq.

Decr 13 97

Dear Sir

Your letter of inquiry addressed to the Treasury Department, has been referred to me.

A few specimen cents of nickel alloy, bearing the eagle were struck in 1856. They were not a legal currency, and no record was kept of their number. In the next year they were legalized, and coined to a large amount. The annual report of 1857 gives 6,333,456 cent pieces up to June 30, the end of the fiscal year, of which 333,456 were the large cent pieces. By another printed table which extends to the end of the year, the number of nickel or eagle pieces is set down at 17,500,000, for 1857.

Yours truly

J. A. Rodney Director

Geo. H. Foster Esq.

CENTS NOT PENNIES

???

PAGE - 141

L-B #5

DEC. 13-1869

Dec 13 9

Dear Sir

In reply to your questions,

1. The first issue of cents (not pennies) was in 1793.
2. No cents have ever had any gold in them. That was a practical joke upon the Mint, which gave us some annoyance from inquirers.
3. The last year of large cents was 1857.
4. No cents were coined in 1815.

Respectfully yours
Jas. Pollock Director.

Mr. E. P. Peeles
Alliance, Ohio.

Dec 14 9

Hon G. A. Finkelburg

Dear Sir

The enclosed letter to you from Messrs G. Mallinckrodt & Co. should have been duly returned to you in my letter of the 10th inst. but was inadvertantly overlooked.

Yours Truly

Jas. Wood

Director

Dec. 14 9

Sir

I have duly received your letter of the 13th instant, enclosing transfer draft No. 1193 on Philadelphia, for $2000, for which you request me to send you

5¢ Nickel coin $1.800.
1¢ " " .200. $2.000.

In reply, I have to state that the coin will be sent to you by Express tomorrow.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon. F. E. Spinner
Treasurer U. S.
Washington D.C.

Dec. 14th 9

Sir

In reply to your inquiry of the 13th inst, the Spanish Doubloon, as you are aware, is a general term comprising the issues of Spain proper, but especially those of Spanish America. For some years past they have ceased to be coined in Spain, and in some of the States of South America, but they are still current and chiefly maintained by Mexico.

There is some variety in their values, and they are more or less affected by wear; but as you only ask for the average Mint value, I would set it down at $15.50 each, from which deduct the present coinage charge of 1/2 per cent, making the net value $15.42. Of that charge

should be reduced, as is
contemplated, it will, of course
elevate the average value
by so much.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Ellicott
Director

Hon F. E. Spinner
Treasurer U. S.
Washington D.C.

Dec. 14th 9

Sir

In a letter of Dec. 1st 1869 from the Asst Secretary of the Treasury to the Treasurer of the U.S. mint, reference is made to a lot of light three dollar gold pieces which were directed to be sent to the U.S. Mint from the U.S. Assistant Treasurer at San Francisco, amounting in all to $7775.

In the same letter, the Treasurer of the Mint was directed to confer with me (the Director), and to request that "a careful examination be instituted with a view to ascertain and report to the Department the cause of its light weight."

When the coins were received,

I at once constituted the Assayer, Melter and Refiner, and Chief Coiner, a Commission to examine them fully and carefully and report thereon.

The amount, by count, received here, was $7,760.- two pieces, or six dollars, having been lost between San Francisco and Omaha, as reported by the Express Agent.

The Commission promptly performed the duty assigned, and I now have the honor to forward their Report. I fully concur in their conclusions.

It was the most abused lot of gold coin ever received at the Mint, and on that account its examination was interesting and instructive. It was evident to a careful observer

that the decrease of weight was owing to abrasion in some form. They were also examined and weighed separately. Many of them were abraded by long circulation; others were reduced by filing and sweating. The coins originally were, beyond doubt, of standard weight, and no suspicion of unfairness in the coinage should attach to any one of the Mints in which they were coined.

Every kind of currency, metallic or paper, is exposed to the arts of counterfeiters or depredators in various forms. The practice of reducing the weight of gold coins by what is called sweating, although not frequent, seems not to be given up. It consists in poising the coin in such a way

that it can be equally attacked by a bath of aqua-regia or nitro-muriatic acid, whose slow action will remove a considerable pro-portion of the gold, even to a fourth part of the coin, without defacing or spoiling the impress-ion, except that it takes away the sharpness of the outlines, of devices, and lettering. This effect is so obvious, that any eye of moderate practice will detect the fact without resorting to the balance. As the artist always removes enough to pay him for his trouble, the coin is in this way completely ruined for currency purposes.

The Act of April 21, 1806, Sec. 3. provides a punishment for this offence.

This lot of coins, coming as

it does from a State where the currency is exclusively metallic (altho' only a part were coined there), affords an argument against the exclusion of paper money; or rather, in favor of a paper currency, supported by gold at par. Such exclusion makes a great and unnecessary loss by wear; a loss which falls upon the last holder, if the coin be refused; unless the Government will undertake to make it good. That guarantee would be very proper in the case of fractional currency (silver) on which the Government had made a profit; but not in the case of gold, where only the mere expense of coinage is deducted. However, England once did re-coin the worn guineas, at a great charge to the Treasury

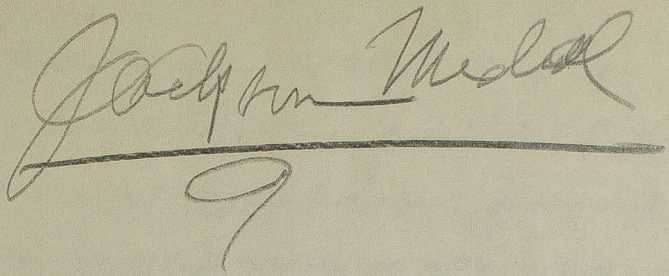
and she now keeps up the silver by re-issue, at full weight. By coining our silver at a mark below bullion value, we could also afford to do the same, to a very great public advantage.

The subject of redeeming, by re-issue at full weight, the gold and silver coinage reduced in value by abrasion and other causes, should be carefully considered before ~~action~~ receiving the sanction of the Government.

Very Respectfully Yours.

Jas. Ellwood
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.



Dec. 16th 9

Sir

Your letter of the 14th inst, inquiring for a medal profile likeness of General Jackson, from which to engrave postage stamps, has been duly received.

In reply I have to state, that a large medal of Genl Jackson in profile, was struck by authority of a resolution of Congress approved Feby 27th 1815; but as it is not a good likeness, it probably would not answer your purpose.

I enclose for your examination, a small silver medal of the General, issued shortly after his inauguration, March 4th 1833, of the merits of which I leave you to judge.

I also send you to-day

by Express, a large medal profile of Gen. Jackson, in wax, prepared for your use by the Engraver of the Mint, which is decidedly the best thing I can furnish for the purpose indicated. The original profile was executed by the late Engraver of the Mint, J. B. Longacre Esq (now deceased) from repeated sittings granted by the General for the purpose, about the year 1830, and is considered perhaps the best profile likeness of him, extant.

I further enclose a communication from Wm Barber Esq, Engraver of the Mint, containing some suggestions in the line of his art, to which your favorable consideration is respectfully invited.

If the Engraver or myself can give any additional information

or render you any further
service in this matter, we
shall take great pleasure in
doing so.

Very Respectfully Yours

Director

Hon W. H. H. Terrell
Third Ass't P. M. General
Washington D.C.

Dec 17. 9

Sir

I have this morning received your letter of the 9th inst. enclosing draft for $300. gold, and requesting me to send you by Express One Hundred silver dollars of the Coinage of 1870, and gold dollars of 1870 for the balance. In reply I have to say that your order will be filled out of the first Coinage of the Coming year, as per your request.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Thaddeus Wiswell, Esq
No. 626 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, Cal.

Dec. 22d 9

Sir

The letter of the Asst Secretary of the Treasury, of Dec. 8th 1869, enclosing copy of a letter addressed to me on the 17th ultimo, by the Treasurer of the Mint, on the subject of his legality to appoint the employes in his Office, has been received.

The questions raised by the Treasurer are not new. On at least three several occasions they were presented, and decided by the proper authority, against the right of the Treasurer to appoint the employes, help, servants or workmen, in his Office.

In 1853, two years after the passage of the Act of March 3d 1851 (U. S. L. C. & B. Vol. 9. p. 645) wh

provided that "the several Treasurers of the U. S. Mints be, and they are hereby authorized to appoint their own Clerks, subject however to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury"; the question was raised in the parent Mint at Philadelphia, whether, under that Act, the Treasurer of the Mint here could appoint his own Clerks and Employes, the supplement under which the authority was claimed, having relation to the Branch Mints and their Superintendents. Mr Guthrie was then Secretary of the Treasury. It was then decided that although the law in its terms was not clear as to the right of the Treasurer of the Mint to appoint his Clerks, yet, its spirit and policy would justify such appointment; but the

power must be confined to the Clerks (6 in number), and did not extend to employes &c. I have seen the correspondence, but cannot find it here.

Again in 1857, in the early part of Mr Buchanan's administration, Mr Walton being Treasurer of the Mint in Philadelphia, the same questions were raised, and decided by the then Secretary of the Treasury, in the same way, against the right of the Treasurer to appoint the employes &c, in his Office &c,, and confining his power of appointment to the six clerks allowed to him.

And again in 1863, during Mr Lincoln's administration, Mr Chase being Secretary of the Treasury, in consequence of some misunderstanding between the Superintendent

(and)

4

and Treasurer of the Branch Mint at San Francisco, the same question was presented to me as Director of the Mint; and with the aprobation and authority of Secretary Chase, it was decided that whilst the Treasurer could and must ap=-point the Clerks in his Office, which were duly authorized and created by law, he could not create any office or appoint to any place in his office, any person as Assistant, Helper, workman &c;- that this power was in the Superintendent (or Director), and conferred upon him in clear and express terms. Mr McIntyre, Hon N. B. Browne, and Mr McKibbin, succeeded Mr Walton as Treasurer of the Mint, but the question was not again raised by (either)

5

either of them; it having been con=
=sidered as settled, so far as official
decision could settle it.

General powers of the Director.

In the Act of January 18th 1837, enti=
=tled "An Act establishing a Mint"
&c, the powers of the Director are
set forth as follows, "The Director
shall have the control and man=
=agement of the Mint, and the
Superintendence of the Officers and
persons employed therein, and the
general supervision of the business
of the several Branches". All the
Officers, including the Treasurer,
are thus subject to the Superinten=
=dence of the Director &c. This
authority and control are abso=
=lutely necessary to secure uniform=
=ity and efficiency of action, and
prevent all conflicts of jurisdiction.

The Director's power to appoint is contained in Section 3d of the same Act, and is as follows, viz. "That the Director shall appoint, with the approbation of the President, assistants to the Assayer, Melter and Refiner, Chief Coiner, and Engraver, and clerks for the Director and (Treasurer) whenever, on representation made by the Director to the President that such assistants or clerks are necessary. And it shall be the duty of the assistants to aid their principals in the execution of their respective offices, and of the clerks to perform such duties as shall be prescribed for them by the Director."

Conceding that the Joint Resolution of 1851, already referred

(to)

to, gave the Treasurer of the Mint the right to appoint his own Clerks; the other portions of this 3d Section remain unrepealed. Nowhere, by this or any other law, has the Treasurer a right to create a Clerkship or place, or add to the number of his Clerks, or the assistants or employes, workmen or servants in the Mint.

The Clerks can only be increased "whenever on representation made by the Director to the President, it shall be the opinion of the President that such assistants (those referred to in Sec. 3d) or Clerks, are necessary." When the number of Clerks for the Treasurer is thus increased by the Director and President, he may make the appointment, not otherwise. Thus Sec. 3d relates to Assistants to the operative officers

of the Mint (a term of art) and to Clerks, all of whom have salaries offixed to their offices, and the amount regu=lated by law.

There are now in the office of the Treasurer of the Mint, six clerks appointed by him. These have, by the proper authority, (the Director and President) been assigned to him; - their salaries have been fixed by act of Congress; - and they are discharg=ing their duties prescribed for them by the Director, as Clerks in the office of the Treasurer.

By the Act of April 1866, the salaries of the Chief Clerk of the Director, and the six clerks of the Treasurer, were increased.

That Act recognized the number of Clerks now in the Mint, (seven in all,) to which salaries have been

[illegible] attached. (See Pamphlet Mint laws, place 45, pages 87, 8.)

By Sec. 4, of the Act of January 18th 1837, (see Pamphlet laws, page 75) it is enacted "that the Director shall employ such workmen and servants in the Mint, as he shall from time to time find necessary". Section 7th of same Act, authorizes the Director to fix the amount of wages of these workmen and servants &c. The salaries of the Assistants to operative officers, and Clerks, are fixed by law.

The power of the Director to appoint all the employes of the Mint except the Assistants to the operative officers, and the six clerks of the Treasurer, would thus seem to admit of no doubt; and this power, as already shown, has been repeatedly recognized.

But the Treasurer in his communi=
=cation alledges that the persons
named therein and employed in
his Department, perform clerical
work, and are to be regarded as
clerks.

They were all appointed by me
or my predecessors, and represent
the Director in the general manage=
=ment of the Mint; - they are in no
sense clerks; - they are to render
such assistance as workmen,
servants or employes as will
facilitate the operations of the
Treasurer's Department, and aid
the Cashier and Deposit Clerk
in handling bullion, weighing
and counting under their direction.

Mr William B. Leidy represents
the Director in the Cashier's room;
and is directed to render such

"

general assistance to the Cashier as he may request &c. Under the Cashier, he counts currency and coin; assists in lifting and delivering bullion &c. He makes no entries in the Cashier's Book, and is only regarded as a workman or servant, and was so appointed by the Director. If he performs clerical duties, they are by request of the Cashier, not by assignment of the Director.

Mr John T. Money has no connection directly or indirectly with the Cashier or his duties. He was appointed by me as Director's principal messenger; his place is in, and near, the Director's room; but, by reason of his promptness, efficiency and conceded honesty, does, by the

request of the Cashier, and permission of the Director, collect Drafts drawn in favor of the Mint &c.

This is not "his chief duty"; nor is it any part of his prescribed duties, so far as the Treasurer's Department is concerned; but by permission of the Director, he renders a valuable service to the Treasurer, in the manner indicated.

And so in the Deposit Rooms. The Treasurer is represented there by his Clerk; the Director, by the employs appointed by himself; appointed as aids, checks, employes or workmen and servants, or by whatever name an assistant or employe may be called. Mr Steele assists in weighing and stamping the bars, and keeps a record of the sources of bullion received, and

the metal for small and base coin; and all this for, and on behalf of the Director, and under the eye of the Deposit Clerk, a proper check and balance in the Deposit Room. Col. Boskyshell as Register of Deposits, reports weekly and fully to the Director all the bullion received &c, and takes no other part in the business of the Deposit Room, unless requested to aid, when necessity requires additional help.

Messrs Runkle and Thompson are workmen, directed to assist in the lifting and handling bullion when received, and perform such manual labor as may be required in the reception and disposal of deposits;- taking bullion to (Deposit)

Deposit, Melting Room &c. Mr Thompson also assists in the Coining Room, Express Office; and wherever bullion is to be handled &c. These two persons, Runkle and Thompson, are in no sense Clerks, nor does either of them perform any clerical duties.

I regret that the Treasurer did not call on me for information, instead of "his subordinates." The respective duties of the persons named in his letter, would have been clearly communicated to him, with the reason and necessity of their appointment;- and thus this apparent conflict of authority (for, I am pleased to say it is only apparent and official, not personal) would have been avoided.

(The)

The appointment of Messrs Runkle and Thompson was known to Mr Cochran, deposit clerk, who represents the Treas=
=urer; and it would have been known to the Treasurer on the very day of their appointment, ~~but~~ for the fact that he is required by the duties of his double office to be in the office of ~~the office~~ of the Assistant Treasurer of the U.S., and therefore cannot be often in the Mint building; the ~~places~~ location of these respective offices, being in different parts of this City.

If the Treasurer requires more clerks, they must be created as directed by law, and their salaries regulated, as is the case (with)

with all the Mint clerks, by law.

But the number now in his office, is fully sufficient for all the duties required, and, aided by the employes appointed by the Director, in the performance of the heavy manual labor of their place, they do not, and cannot, complain. The word "clerk" is a word of art, - a technical term; and does not include, by any legal or practical interpre-tation, those employed to render the clerks assistance in some of their labors. If being messenger, porter, employe or workman in a clerk's office, makes him thereby a clerk and gives to the Treasurer the right to appoint, it becomes an interesting inquiry as to when the right of the Treasurer to appoint

(ends)

ends, and that of the Director begins.

The Treasurer in his letter assumes that the men in his Department all perform clerical duties, - are therefore clerks, and must be appointed by him. The facts are against the assumption, and therefore, the conclusion, an error.

The law makes a clear distinction between clerks, ex nomine, and other subordinate employes, as appears by reference to the annual estimates for the support of this institution, and the appropriations made accordingly. You will see, for instance, on page 28 of the estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1871, submitted by you to the House of Representatives

on the 6th of December instant, and which conform to established precedents, that provision is made for the salaries of seven Clerks, the only clerks, as such, that are recognized, and their salaries fixed by law. Six of these Clerks are appointed by the Treasurer of the Mint, and one by the Director. All other employes, whether their duties are partly clerical or not, are provided for under the general title of "Workmen and Adjusters." The appointment of the latter belongs exclusively to the Director of the Mint, and not the Treasurer. The persons whose appointment the Treasurer claims, all come under the head of "workmen", by which title only

are they known to the law;
although for convenience of
designation in transacting the
business of the Mint, they may
be called by other names.
If the Director has no power to
appoint these men as "workmen";
then no one has that power,
nor is there any appropriation
to pay them for their services.
In regard to the Treasurer's
responsibility for deposits, they
are of a moral, not a monetary
character; because the deposits,
although in his hands, are
not charged against him
until delivered to the Melter
and Refiner, when both offices
are simultaneously charged
with the value after melting;
so that the Treasurer's money

responsibility is transferred
this last named office, the
wholly and entirely to the Melter
personal attention and direc=
and Refiner, and thus his the
=tion they require. His duties
Treasurer's responsibility ceases
as Ass't Treasurer of the U. S
almost eo instanti that it
are arduous and responsible
attaches. The Melter and
and demand his entire time
Refiner is then responsible and
and attention. He cannot
the Treasurer's control and
be in two places at the same
responsibility are gone until
time, and consequently the
the bullion is returned to him
duties of his two offices often
in coin, with which the Deposit
conflict, he feels uneasy, and
Room has nothing to do.
is compelled to confide import=
I can fully realize the
=ant interests in the conduct
anxiety of the Treasurer in this
of these offices, to others.
matter. The removal of the
A personal supervision is a
office of Ass't Treasurer of the
high security. This he
U. S. from the Mint building
cannot give; he cannot go
to the Custom House, eight or
often at the Mint; and when
ten squares distant, has made
there but for a short time.
it impossible for the Treasurer
The Treasurer should be relieved
of the Mint to give to the duties of
from this embarrassment. The

Offices should be separated.
The salary of Mr Eyster as
Ass't Treasurer of the U. S.
should not be less the $3000
or $4000. That office alone, has
cares and responsibilities
sufficient for any one man.
Make it a separate office;
provide a salary suitable to the
position; then appoint a
Treasurer for the Mint with a
salary equal to that of the
present operative officers ($3000);
require him to be at his office
in the building, and then the
fears that disturb the Treasurer
will be at an end; and no
conflict of jurisdiction will
arise. The general business of
the Mint will not suffer from
such arrangement. after

a full and free conference with Mr Eyster, I am pleased to state that he fully concurs in these views relative to a separation of the offices; that his experience thus far, adds to the force of the argument, and that he will be ever ready to co-operate in effecting the change proposed, believing that the interests of the Government would thereby be advanced.

From frequent conversations with Archibald McIntyre Esq, and Hon N. B. Browne, late Treasurers of the Mint, and Asst Treasurers of the U. S., I can say that they also were favorable to the views expressed, and would urge a separation of these offices.

Every consideration of public

and private interest, would justify, under the circumstances, such separation of the offices. If they in the same building, and subject to the personal supervision of the Treasurer, it would be unnecessary.

It will ever give me pleasure to aid by the appointment of such employes as may be required, the operative officers in the performance of their duties.

The relations existing between all of these officers and the Director, are of the most friendly and pleasant character. I deem it due also to say that all the Clerks and employes in the Treasurer's

Department, and prudent and honest men, and perform their respective duties well and faithfully. A copy of this letter and answer, has been sent to the Treasurer of the Mint, as requested.

Your Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secy of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

P.S. In writing the above I have been informed by Dr Linderman, late Director of the Mint, that in 1868, a similar question, in relation to the employment of persons in the Deposit Melting Room, was raised by the Treasurer of the Branch Mint in San Francisco. It was then

decided by the Secy of the Treasury and the law officers of the Government, that such appointments did not belong to the Treasurer, but to the Superintendent. That the power of the Treasurer to appoint, must be confined to the clerks designated by law, and that all other appointments belonged to the Superintendent.

J. C. Dix

Dec. 22 9

Dear Sir

I duly received your letter of the 18th inst, requesting me to send you a half dozen Copies of the Mint laws in pamphlet.

I regret to say that I find upon examination, that we have very few copies of the Mint Laws on hand, and for that reason can only spare the single copy herewith mailed.

I have thought it better to defer the printing of a new edition, until we can know what changes in the laws may be made during the present session of Congress.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Jno. Jay Knox
Deputy Comptroller of Currency.

Dec. 22. 9

Sir,

On the 9th of the month inst I received from the Secretary of the Treasury, your communication to him of Nov. 17th 1864, duly entering your alleged right to appoint certain designated employes in the Mint, with instructions to reply thereto, and advise you of the same.

I have now to transmit herewith my reply to your letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, and herewith the decision to you a duplicate thereof, as directed by that officer.

Very Respectfully Yours.

Director

J. Ross Snyder Esq
Treasurer U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

Dec. 22d 9

Gentlemen

Your letter of 17th inst, has been rec'd.

Our purchases of Acids are made from Messrs Savage & Keyser, and from Chas. Lennig, at the lowest wholesale prices of the manufacturer, & of the best quality.

Quality with this institu=tion being so important; and, warned by the experience of other years, we do not now resort to proposals or the contract system.

Respectfully Yours

J. A. Pollock
Director

Messrs Allen and Clifford
41 N. Front St
Philada

Dec. 23d 9

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 22d inst, I have to say that the Mint does not issue nickel pieces in bronze, or bronze pieces in nickel; nor do we strike off pieces to fill special orders of this kind. If we were to undertake it, it would cost you five times more than it would to buy them of coin dealers. Specimens of the proposed new silver coinage will probably be ready in the course of a couple of weeks.

The Mint does not furnish trial pieces that have been struck off in trying new materials and alloys.

Yours &c

J. A. Pollock
Director

Mr Rollinson Colburn

an estimate to
cured from the
f Morgan and Orr,
s City, the same
hat built most of
sses used in this
of the cost &c of
a Press as your
might require.
enclose the
f Morgan and
ontaining their
ate &c; also the
f the Chief Coiner
g the information
d. The Press

to which he refers, is
in good condition, and
can be made with
small expense, equal to
a new one of same
power; costing about
half the price of a new
one.

Yours Very Respectfully

Jno Pollock

Dec. 28th 9

Sir

The bar of silver, mentioned in your letter of the 24th inst, received this morning, is smaller than we care about taking; but, for your accommodation, the Mint will convert it into coin, upon terms which you will find specified in the enclosed circular.

Respectfully Yours.

Jas. Pollock
Director

Jas. W. Armstrong Esq.
Sacrillo, Miss.

Dec. 29 9

Sir

By reference to Mr Dunning's letters to me of Aug. 27th; Oct. 28th; and Nov. 12th 1869; and my letters to him, in reply dated Aug. 28th, and Nov. 15th 1869, you will learn that Mr Dunning was authorized to receive proposals and negotiate the sale of 119 Bbls sweeps received from the Branch Mint at San Francisco; that lot No. 1, 116 Bbls = 47,065 lbs. was disposed of to E. Balbach at 7 1/4 cts per pound; and 3 bbls = 988 lbs. to R. Longman & Sons at 65/4 cts, and that Mr Dunning sent me by Express $2400. in gold notes on account of these sales, leaving near $1,700 yet

to be permitted.

I have Mr Dunning's assurance that this balance will be duly accounted for.

I will thank you however, to inquire into the matter, and let me know how it stands; whether the purchasers have made pay=ment in full or not; and, if not, then to request payment of the balance in gold, and remit me the amount by Express.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Brown
Director

Geo. W. Edelman Esq.
Supt, ad interim, U. S. Assay Office
New York.

Dec 31 9

Sir

I have to reply to your inquiry of yesterday, that, as the silver dollar uncoined weighs 412½ grains, and as we pay 122½ cents, in half-dollars or less, per 480 grains of standard fineness, it follows that

$$\frac{412.5}{480} \times 122.5 = 105.27+$$

that is, the dollar will yield 105.^{cts}27, in half dollars. But if worn, we cannot determine the yield except by weighing. The loss would be trifling.

If the object is to get the largest return for them in paper money, there would be no gain by having them recoined into halves. The brokers understand the difference between a whole and two halves, absurd as it is. Two old halves (before 1853) were equal to a whole dollar.

Very respectfully
your obt servant
Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon. T. E. Spinner
Treasurer U.S.

Jany 1. 70

Sir

On Friday December 31st 1869, after business hours, I made the usual monthly count and examination of monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result.

Gold	$324,833.27
Silver	21,778.49
Ordinary Fund	50,132.25
Copper Fund	167,182.11
San Francisco, Br. Mint	5,219.13
Denver, Br. Mint	461.63
Carson City Br. Mint	1,120.59
Total	$570,727.47

Examination was at the same time made into the general condition and

operations of the Mint, and the Institution was found to be in good working order, and its business conducted in a careful and satisfactory manner.

Very Respectfully Yours

J. Ross Snowden

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

Washington D.C.

Jany 70

Sir

On Friday December 31st 1869, after business hours, I made the usual monthly count and examination of monies in the hands of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States, with the following result.

Gold.	$ 3,751,316.
Silver	83,317.25
~~Demand~~ Notes	379,782.
Gold Certificates	542,700.
Fractional Currency	165,045.41
Coin ~~Interest~~ not reimbursed ~~Coupons~~	787,579.50
Currency Int. not reimbursed	127,080.
~~Notes~~ 7% Coupons	253.64
Total	$ 5,837,073.80

Very Respectfully Yours

J. P. Rowell
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secy of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Jan 11th 70

Hon Wm D. Kelley

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 10th inst, rec'd. By the laws and regulations of the Mint, the proceeds of deposits cannot be paid to Depositors, without a return of the Mint Certificate or Receipt, with his endorsement.

If you will endorse the certificate rec'd by you, and send it to me, we will at once send proceeds to Mr Hoge as requested.

The amount, in gold, $121.497.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Jany 13th 170

Dear Sir:

I need hardly say that your inquiry might be answered in a very brief, or a very extended way, according to the intended scope.

But in any History (large or small) of Money, it will be necessary to "begin at the beginning", and you cannot do better than to examine the Old Testament Scriptures, with the aid of a Concordance. There you will see what the currency was, long before there was any coinage. That was an improvement, introduced by the Greeks, about seven centuries before the Christian era. To get at all the particulars of the early coinage, both in Greece and Rome, it will be necessary to repair to a library of the first class, where rare books are kept. If you are familiar with French,

you will find an excellent Treatise by the celebrated antiquarian, M. Mongez, contained in Vol. IX. of the Memoirs of the Royal Institute of France, 1831. Some of the facts there given, are copied into "A Description of Ancient and Modern Coins", in the Mint Cabinet, published by Lippincott, 1860; which also contains a good deal of monetary history, derived from various sources. A Manual of Coins of all nations (modern) was published by our Assayers, Eckfeldt and Dubois, in 1842, quarto; and a Supplement to it, in 1852.

In regard to our Colonial coinage, I hardly know what work to recommend; you will find a number of them in the Catalogue of any large library.

I forward herewith my last Annual Report, which will give you some important statistics and facts.

Very Respectfully your Ob't Serv't

J. A. Rock
Director

N. S. Howe Esq
Haverhill,
Mass.

Jan 19. 70

Sir,

Enclosed please find receipt of the Adams Express Company for a package containing One Hundred (100) Silver Dollars of the Coinage of 1870, and One Hundred and Ninety two (192) Gold Dollars of the same coinage, in full of your order dated December 9. 1869. Please advise me of its safe arrival.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pearly
Director

Thaddeus Wiswell, Esq
No. 626 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, Cal.

P.S. The Silver dollars are worth $1.08, each, & yr. c/o Stamp worth

100 Silver dollars @ 1.08 = $108.—

192 Gold do. [illegible] = [illegible]

Amt of yr. deb. [illegible] [illegible]

J. P.

Jan 22 '70

Sir,

Your letter of the 20th inst to the Secretary of the Treasury about the coinage of nickel cents, has been referred to me for reply.

Specimens of nickel cents were struck in 1856, but not issued as currency. The regular coinage began under the law of 1857.

Respectfully Yours

[illegible]

Director

Mr Cal. C. King
Johnstown Pa

Jan 22. 70

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 17th inst has been duly received. The tables in my last annual report, herewith sent you, will give you the amount of the Gold production of the U.S. for the last three, and many preceding years, so far as we have any official knowledge of it from the deposits received. Beyond that, I have no data upon which to base an opinion; neither can I determine the tendency to increased or decreased production except as the deposits are augmented or diminished. There are no data from which to conjecture the "amount probably used in home manufactures, and what available for export."

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

M. S. Sheneman
No. 840 N. 20th St. Philad.

Jan. 24th 70

Sir

I have received your letter of the 21st instant, in relation to the deposits of silver by Geo. H. Christian President of a Silver Mining Co.; and the alleged declaration "by the person in charge of the deposit room, that silver would not be hereafter received unless it was first cut up in pieces to suit the melting pots." No such general order has been made, nor has any deposit ever been refused that could with propriety be received under the laws and regulations of the Mint. On the contrary, all the Officers of this Institution, have been not only willing, but anxious, to afford

every facility possible to depos-
-itors.

The case of Mr Christian was a peculiar and exceptional one, and will, I presume, never occur again. The Officers of the Silver Co. had cast a "test button" of silver, weighing about 683 lbs Troy; or 562 avoirdupois, more than one quarter of a ton; solid, and without any grooves or breaks, such as are usual in large silver bars or castings. This large piece of silver, after being on exhibition for some time, was brought to the Mint; received without objection; and orders were given to cut it into pieces suitable for the melting pots. We have no conveniences for cutting such large masses

except the ordinary tools of the Blacksmith's Shop, - the anvil, sledges, and chisels.

Accordingly the piece was carried to the Blacksmith's Shop and preparation made for the cutting. Six men were required, and after an hour or more of hard labor, it was found that the shop was too small for efficient work, and that to cut the piece, some other place must be provided. It was therefore removed to the Deposit Melting Room, and operations there resumed. As represented to me by the Foreman of the Blacksmith Shop, they were engaged the second day about five hours for each man; requiring the aid of six men constantly; and eight

frequently. He also reports that they broke twelve steel chisels in the cutting. The swinging of the sledges &c in the Deposit Melting Room interfered greatly with the proper business of that department. For all this the charge was twelve dollars, a sum far below the actual cost in time, and wear and tear of tools; the time occupied being about forty hours; in the aggregate about five days.

I did express the opinion that it would be better that such large masses should, if possible, be cut outside of the Mint, as we had not the conveniences or machinery necessary for such cutting; and to use the Deposit Melting Room for an

purposes could not be permitted, as it not only interfered with the legitimate business of the room, but the jarring and noise of the sledging might injure the furnaces, building &c.; and that all such cutting must be done in the Blacksmith's Shop.

The bars usually sent here, are prepared outside in sizes fitted for the melting pots; and it is very easy for those in charge of mining operations to cast, or make the bars or "test buttons"; of the proper size. It is always to the interest of the depositor to have them so made.

With this explanation of the case, I have only to say

that we will, as we have always done, do everything practicable and lawful to accommodate depositors of bullion; - and that the suggestions of your letter have been the rule of action in this Institution for many years, and shall be carried into full effect.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Jan 25. 70.

Gentlemen,

Your letter of the 24th inst has been duly received. I forward by mail you a copy of my last annual report from which you will learn the amount of coinage for the past year, and preceding years. I have none altogether, nor are there any data from which it could be possible, to estimate the amount of the coin in circulation in the United States. What becomes of it after it leaves the Mint or current talk, how much is exported, or used in the arts, or what proportion remains at home. The silver coinage, less than the dollar, was reduced in weight in 1853, as you will see by the accompanying circular.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Messrs L. Von Hoffman & Co
New York

Jan. 25th 70

Hon H. L. Dawes
Chairman Com. on Appropriations
Sir

In reply to the communication of the 18th inst signed by R. J. Stephens, Clerk of your Committee, and, in its behalf, requesting a statement showing the aggregate profits (or transient gain) arising from the nickel and cent coinage during the last five years; also the actual gold value of the nickel pieces (or 100 of them); and also the gold value of 100 of the cent pieces, I have the honor to enclose statement marked "A" showing the profits &c, as requested.

To the second question I reply that it is usual for us to

state the value of our inferior coins in currency because the accounts of that coinage are so kept. But, as the answer is required in gold, the following is deduced, viz

The metal in 100 5ct pieces, 77 grs nickel & copper, cents in gold 55 cts
Labor, material, dies, coinage, wastage &c 80 "
Total in gold $1.35

100, 5ct pieces, Nic.& Cop. 25% metal, 50% labor &c, gold. 1.03
100 1 " " 25% (proposed) 80% " " 1.00
100 2 " Bronze 11% metal, 70% " 1.04
100 1 " Bronze 11% 70% " .87

The actual whole cost to Govt, is nearly as great for making a cent as a five cent piece.

The above does not include the cost of the bags &c, delivery &c. This cost is about equal to 5% on the above estimates.

Very Respectfully Yours Jas. P. Kimball
Director

Jan 28. 70

Dear Sir

Enclosed please find ten ($10) Dollars in payment of your receipted bill, received this morning, for the Historical Magazine from January 1865 to January 1870

Yours Truly

Jas. Pollock
Director

Henry B. Dawson, Esq
Editor of
The Historical Magazine
Morrisania
New York

Jany 25th 70

Sir

Your letter of the 18th inst, enclosing "Copy of a Bill revising the laws relating to the Mints" &c, with request to examine the Bill carefully in company with the other Officers of the Mint, and return with suggestions, and noting upon it in writing such amendments as I may think desirable, has been received.

I have carefully examined the Bill, and also caused it to be examined by the Officers of the Mint, and now return it with the result of such examinations, which is the unanimous opinion of all the operative Officers here.

First, as to the Bill itself gen-

-erally. The existing Minting Laws
are the result of the experience of
many years, of men educated,
scientific and practical, and
form a system as nearly perfect
as any upon the Statute Books of
our Country. These laws, although
passed at different times, were
always in accordance with the
exigencies of the occasion, and
the progress of science. As a
system they might be codified
perhaps with some advantage,
as some of their provisions are
slightly conflicting, but in no
manner impairing their effi-
-ciency; but the proposed Bill
by no means meets such adjustment,
being a very defective codifica-
-tion which would soon demand
new enactments to correct its

imperfections. To alter and change a system so long and well established;- its efficiency so fully demonstrated by its results, should require reasons, economical and governmental, stronger than first and hasty impressions, or individual convictions. I have no hesitation in affirming, and in this the officers agree, that all the difficulties that have existed or now exist in the Mints or Assay offices (San Francisco or New York) have had their origin, not in the system itself, but in a disregard of its provisions, and the rules and regulations for the government of the Mint and Branches, as prescribed by the Director, with the approval of the Secretary of

the Treasury.

The proposed Bill, so far as it is a copy of existing laws, is to be approved, but the alterations suggested, with very few exceptions, are changes without any improvement, nor do they provide any remedy for supposed defects beyond what now exists.

I will now notice the details of the Bill wherein changes and modifications are suggested.

1st. The main feature of the Bill lies in the first section, the creation of a new officer, the Director of the Minting System of the U. S. to have his Office in the Treasury Department at Washington. Now, apart

from all personal considerations, whoever may be the Director of the Mints &c, his office should not be in Washington, but in one of the principal Mints of the U. S. The Director, to be efficient and fitted for his duties, should know the daily operations of a Mint from actual personal inspection, - should see and know the details of its working; - be personally familiar with all the require=ments of its respective depart=ments. This he could not do if his office is to be at Wash=ington, however roving his commission may be. He must depend for all his infor=mation in relation to Mints and Assay offices upon the

Superintendents of these establish=
=ments, and any opinion he may
form must come to him from
those officers who are in daily
contact with the actual opera=
=tions of the Mint. Therefore the
proposed Director can do no more
than transmit to the Secretary of
the Treasury what the Secretary of
the Treasury now receives direct,
and without the intervention of
such officer. There is no use
and no advantage then in the
proposed Directorship; it would
be the creation of a new office not
required by any consideration of
public interest, and consequently
the useless expenditure of Government
funds.

Again, casual visits to the
Mints and Assay Offices cannot

possibly enable the Director to gather as certain information, or form as reliable opinions upon practical questions or operations as those resulting from the daily observations of an Officer in the Mint, of such operations, and carried on for a long time.

If the Superintendents are men of ability and integrity, (and none others should be appointed) he (the Director) could not alter the information given him by them, nor ought he to risk giving different opinions on practical questions, because he is necessarily, by absence and want of familiarity with their working, not qualified to hazard conjectural opinions, at variance with those based wholly on practice. Either, therefore,

the proposed Director will transmit the information and opinions he receives from the Superintendents, unaltered or modified. If unaltered, then he is a useless intermediate between the Superintendents and the Secretary of the Treasury; - if altered, he will create confusion and trouble arising from his interference in matters of which he has practically no knowledge.

The ruling thought of the proposed Bill, a Directorship at Washington, will be more fully and usefully accomplished, and by a far less outlay of the public money, by a Clerkship in the Treasury Department, in the nature of a Registrar, to receive all the documents transmitted from the

Director, as now, and Superintend-
-ents of the Mints and Assay Offices,
to the Secretary of the Treasury; to
register, file and preserve the
same, so as to be accessible to all
who may have the right to examine
them, and conduct the Mint
correspondence, under the
direction of the Secretary of the
Treasury; and by a Comptroller
of Mint Accounts, whose special
duty it shall be to examine, audit
and adjust all the accounts of
every kind, of the Mint, Branches
and Assay Offices, promptly and
without the delay now attending
those examinations. These
appointments, and the assign-
-ment of duty under them by
the Secy of the Treasury, and under
his control, would meet all the

necessities of the case, and efficiently supply all and more than all the proposed Directorship could accomplish.

It does not, therefore, appear to us that the public service is to be benefitted by removing the office of Director to Washington.

Section 2. The expression "Engraver of the Mint at Philadelphia" does not say that he is to be the sole Engraver, as now, for all the Mints; although that, we presume, is what is intended. This Section virtually restores to the Mint at Philadelphia, and recognizes the primary position it has always held, but which the first section would take away. The historical and traditional character of the

"

parent Mint should not be impaired by hasty legislation

Section 7. The increase of the amount in the Surety Bonds would embarrass some worthy holders of Office, and do nothing to promote security. Integrity of character in the Officer is the true security of the Government; but when Bonds are required they should have some relation to the character of the office and the nature of the duties to be performed.

The Superintendent handles no money, and has no right to receive, hold, or disburse any of the funds of the Mints, but is required to give bond in $50.000. If a bond is required at all, it should be in a less amount than those Officers who receive and control large amounts of coin, bullion &c. The Assayer handles

no coin or bullion, only a few small bits of metal at a time, and yet, under this Bill, must give bond in $50.000, while the Treas=
=urers, who have the greatest re=
=sponsibility, give no security.

This perhaps was an oversight, but it furnishes some evidence of the defective character of the provisions of the Bill now under examination. All the defalcations that have taken place in this Mint, two or three in number, have been by the Clerks of the Treasurer having custody of funds or bullion. As regards the officers, and the nature and amount of security, the old law is the better.

Sec. 9. The limits of deviation from standard fineness ~~of 900 gold or silver~~, are left out. If an absolute

fineness of 900 gold or silver is required, the operations of the Mints must cease, as such perfection is unattainable without almost infinite care and labor; it is, in fact, impracticable. The present legal allowance is right, and should be retained.

Sec 17. The reduction of the weight of the whole dollar is approved, and was recommended in my Annual Report of 1861 (page 10)

Sec. 18. The proposed modifications of existing regulations in regard to wastage cannot be justified by practical knowledge and experience, especially in regard to the settlement of the Melter and Refiner. The Depart=ment of Melter & Refiner necessarily becomes the sink of all losses that might perchance occur, and experience for a long series of years has shown

that while the average wastage has been small, yet in some years the wastage has surpassed one thousandth (which Sec. 18 now proposes as the greatest limit allowable), and that too in spite of extreme care and precaution. Such a case occurred in 1863 in this Mint, and after a thorough investigation, it was found that an unusual amount of volatilization had taken place, in consequence of the unlooked for presence of arsenic in Colorado Placer Gold. Another year showed a surplus of gold, for which, of course the officer (M. & R.) would get no credit. If the proposed reduction of allowance were made, the M. & R., however careful and skillful, and whatever his integrity, would have been

obliged to refund the loss above
1000, and yet would be allowed
no credit for his surplus in
another year.

The truth is that gold and
silver cannot be worked with
acids and fluxing and fire and
handling, without some loss.
The marvel is that so extremely
minute a proportion of loss takes
place as Mint accounts on an
average witness.

We feel confident that if the
provisions of this Section become
a law, no person of strict integrity
and of the utmost skill and
experience, and thoroughly
knowing his dangers and risks,
could accept the office of Melter
and Refiner. The Chief Coiner
is, by no means, as liable to the

wastage that the Melter & Refiner is. The present law on this subject should not be changed.

Sec. 25. The recoining of gold and silver by the Government. Observe the operation of this singular provision. A depositor of gold, more cunning than honest, is paid in new coins; he takes them away, sweats or files off a few grains, brings them back and demands pieces of full weight; goes and repeats the same work, and the law takes care of him. Or, he may take old and worn pieces, punch holes in them, and then get new coins for them, at a serious loss to Government, and gain to himself. This would be a better business than counterfeiting, and would be legal. We may

add, no nation keeps up its gold coin at the public expense. The case is different with silver, on which there is a profit.

Between Sections 33 and 34. A reduction of the coinage charge to ½ per cent, would be proper; its total abolition would not be very objectionable.

Sections 35, 36 and 37. These Sections embody the provisions of the copper-nickel Bill, providing for a new one, three and five cent coin, presented to, and [redacted] by, the last Congress. There exists no necessity, no consideration of public interest or convenience for a change in the present bronze, copper and nickel coinage, and the substitution of that proposed in these Sections. In appearance,

in size, weight and artistic device, the present is fully equal to the proposed base coinage; and as regards the bronze cent in comparison with the nickel cent suggested, it is superior in many pretention, economy, convenience, easy recognition &c. The copper-nickel cent would be a small inconvenient coin; so small as to be almost useless; and the cost of production, after a careful calculation by some of the most experienced officers of the Mint, would be equal to its nominal value in gold. It costs as much (material excepted) to make a copper-nickel cent, as a gold double eagle.

If every consideration of economy and a desire to prevent useless waste of the public money condemns

the authorizing of the coinage of a nickel-copper one cent piece, why introduce a three and five cent piece of the same metals and proportions, when the existing coins of the same denominations are equal, if not superior, to the proposed.

Then again, the proposition to abolish the silver five cent piece in aid of the nickel coin, is one that would be by common consent condemned; particularly in a Country like ours, abounding in silver ores, and near the day of the resumption of specie payments.

We cannot advise this change.

Sec. 39. This provides for the redemption of the copper, bronze & copper-nickel (except the three and five cent pieces, whose redemption is already provided

for, and in progress of execution.)

This provision we deem unnec=
=essary, and not demanded by the
public for whose convenience alone
"as change" these coins were made.

The provisions of this Section,
if enacted into a law, in connec=
=tion with Sections 35, 36 and 37,
would withdraw from the Treas ry
a large amount of money. This
Section virtually and practically
authorizes the redemption of all the
base coinage now in circulation,
and this redemption to be in the
"national currency". How is this
effected? Simply in this way, and
we have examples of a similar kind
of redemption almost every day.

The section first proposes to redeem
at par, at the Mint in Philadelphia,
every coin of copper, bronze or nickel

now in circulation by exchanging them for the new coin authorized by the Bill. The exchange is made, the new three and five cent pieces are received by the depositor, who immediately, under the other provisions of the section requiring the U. S. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers to redeem such new coin in "national currency" when presented in sums of not less than $50, carries his new coins to the Treasurer, and demands its redemption in the national currency.

Now when it is known that up to June 30th 1869 the copper, bronze and nickel coinage of the Mint amounted to 10.407.603,55; that less than one million has been redeemed, and that, making due allowance

for loss or destruction of coins since issue, there is still in existence not less than eight millions, the question of redemption at this time, and in view of the size of our national debt, becomes im-=portant. As "these coins were issued for the convenience of the people", with no promise, proposal, or expectation of redemption, that the public are satisfied with these coins, that their redemption would largely increase our interest paying debt, the necessity or advantage, public or private of such redemption, at this time, does not clearly appear. It may be well hereafter, not now.

Sections 444 and 445. These Sections relate to the union of the office of Superintendent and Treasurer in

the Assay Office, New York.

The propriety of such a merger of Offices, is more than doubtful. it is wrong in principle, and, when possible, should be avoided. The drawer and the payer of the warants should never be the same person. The merger now suggested destroys a most salutary check, and necessary, as recent events have shown.

The proposed creation of the office of Assistant Superinten=
=dent, cannot and will not remove the force of the objection to the merger of the offices named. Such additional officer would only increase the number of offices, and the expenses of the Assay Office, without any corres=
=ponding benefit, real or imaginary.

Sec. 54. The separation of the offices of Treasurer of the Mint, and Assistant Treasurer at Philadelphia and San Francisco, is a wise and proper measure, particularly in Philadelphia, where the places of business are so widely separated.

On the margin of the Bill we have noted sundry amendments, some verbal, others important, as also some suggestions which are more fully set forth in this communication.

As already stated, most of the difficulties that have arisen, can be traced directly to the failure of the Branch Mints and Assay Office to recognize the authority of the Director of the Mint, and his official

relations to them.

Under any circumstances the security of the Government must depend mainly upon the high character of the appointees for intelligence, integrity and executive efficiency; the proper subordination, under the law, of the Branches and Assay Offices to the parent Mint; and the promptness with which the accounts are audited, thus insuring the instant detection of any irregularities that may occur, whether inadvertantly or otherwise.

We have thus given our views plainly and from a conviction of official duty, with no other desire or intention than to maintain the high character of

the Minting system of our Country, and promote the true interests of Government and people.

This communication has been read to, and approved by all the operative officers of this Mint, as a whole; in a single minor points, there is some variance of opinion.

Very Respectfully Yours

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Jan. 31st 70

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 27th inst, rec'd. The letter of 5th Nov. 1868, is not on file, but your letters of the 7th of the month are on the record, & have been examined. I have carefully examined the Provision in the appropriation act of 1867-8, and have no hesitation in deciding that the true construction is in accordance with the directions you subsequently gave to Mr Cowperthwaite "that the items wastage and loss on sweeps could (and should) properly be charged against the account into which the deductions were carried". The language of the provision is "available profits";- "profits", not receipts; "available profits", not absolute total deductions, charges &c, but profits, in

the ordinary, common and legal sense of the terms;- an amount available after the deductions of necessary loss and expenses. If this is not the meaning of the law, it has none, and would be void for uncertainty.

The rule above stated, is I believe, the true rule, and, until reversed by superior authority ought to be followed, as is now done here by your direction, which was right. And this rule would apply to the loss on sale of sweeps in Assay Office or by Mr Dunning.

Yours Very Truly

Jas. Pollock

Director

Dr. A. R. Linderman

Washington D.C.

Jan 31. 70.

Sir,

Your letter of the 28th inst inquiring about your registered letter of Dec. 24. 1869 has been received this morning. By the regulations of the Mint, no officer of the Mint is allowed to make deposits for third parties, or to act as agent for depositors, as you will see by the Enclosed Circular. Your bullion, in the registered letter, was only taken charge of by the Agent of the Adams Express Company, who has an office in the Mint building, who reports to me that the nett proceeds in gold coin, $26 66/100, was sent by him, to the given address, on the 4th of January, inst. by Express. The Express Agent will take steps to ascertain what has become of it.

Respectfully Yours

J. P. Pollock
Director

Mr. A. M. Addison
per W. Popes atty
Decatur, Ill.

Feby 1st 70

Sir

Yesterday, January 31st 1870, after business hours, I made the usual monthly count and examination of monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result.

Gold	$206.221.50
Silver	32.351.08
Ordinary Account	40.279.30
Copper Fund	177.258.00
San Francisco	5.219.13
Denver	446.69
Carson City	1.112.99
Total	$462.888.69

Examination was at the same time made into the general condition and

operations of the Mint, and the Institution was found to be in good working order, and its business conducted in a careful and satisfactory manner.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Feb. 1. 70.

Sir:

Your letter of January 17th has been duly received, announcing the shipment on that day of a bag of Gold dust of the value of $4,000. for coinage.

Upon due inquiry I find that no deposit of gold dust answering the description, has been received in your name. If it should come to hand your order will be promptly executed, and the coin sent to you by Express.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Messrs J. & T. Laffin,
South Bend, Indiana.

Feby 2 70

Matt. Popper Esq.
Dear Sir

The Adams Ex. Co. have the proceeds of your deposit of bullion. They decline to send it on a Telegraphic order. You will please send them a written order, signed by yourself, when the article will be forwarded as directed.

Yours &c.
Jas Pollock
Director
for J. C. R.

Feby 4th 70

Gentlemen

Your letter of the 24th ultimo, with enclosures, relating to certain improvements by Mr Mason, of the N.Y. Assay Office, in the refining of gold and silver; and asking the views of myself, in connection with Prof. Booth, on the same, was duly received.

With Prof. Booth, I have carefully examined the letters and statements concerning Mr Mason's improvements, and fully concur in the views presented by him in his letter to me, herewith enclosed.

As in 1866 I examined the subject now presented, and expressed my opinion of the character and importance of Mr Mason's improvements in my Annual

Report of that year. I doubt however, whether the actual saving would correspond with the results as given on paper. If so I fear there is a defect somewhere; not in the regulations, but perhaps in the want of a due regard to the interests of the depositor.

In 1866 I said, "whatever may be true of the figures, there is certainly economy in the proposed method, and therefore it is deserving of commendation". This is my opinion now.

The existing regulations are sufficient to assure to the depositor full returns for their bullion, if properly observed in practice, and the operative officers and employes perform their respective duties well & faithfully. I do not see how they would be improved, or better provide for the protection of both the Depositor & the Government. The enclosures referred to, were returned to you last week as requested by Telegraph

Yours Respectfully

J. L. Pollock

Director

Dr. H. R. Linderman
Mrs. Jay Knox Esq
Washington D.C.

Feby 4th 70

Hon A. G. Ordway

Dear Sir

I herewith enclose to you, Check of the First Natl Bank, Washington, on 4th Natl Bk. N. York payable to your order, for $200, dated Dec. 29/69, left here by Mr Heath, as collateral for the coins of the Cabinet to be used &c, for your Book. The check was enclosed in a letter to Mr Heath & is now returned, as I believe all that Mr Heath desired has been accomplished satisfactorily to parties.

I hope your Book of Coins may be a success

Yours Very Truly

Jas Pollock
Dr

Feby 5 70

Dear Sir

The Secy of the Treasury requires me to report the amount of gold and silver bullion deposited during each month by Depositors, from the first day of July 1869 to the 31st of January 1870 and the amount received for each month during the same period from the Assay Office in New York; from the Br. Mint in San Francisco, and from the Br. Mint at Denver.

Please give me the desired information at your early convenience

Yours Truly

[illegible]

H. S. Cochran Esq.
High Clerk, U.S. Mint

Febry 5th 70

Dear Sir

The Secy of the Treasury requests me to send him a statement of the amount of cent coinage, of each denomination, executed monthly, from the first day of July 1869 to the 31st day of January 1870, together with the number of clerks, workmen and employes, of all kinds, male and female, engaged upon this branch of coinage, and the total compensation paid monthly to such clerks and employes.

Please let me have the desired information at your early convenience.

Yours Truly

Jas. P. Kimball

Director

A. L. Snowden Esq.
Chief Coiner, U.S. Mint.

Feby 5th 70

Dear Sir

The Secretary of the Treasury requests me to send him a statement of the amount of gold and silver bullion refined and separated monthly, from the first day of July 1869, to the 31st day of January 1870; the amount of charges received from depositors for refining and separating such bullion; and an estimate of the cost of the process during that period of time, in order that the Act of March 3d 1853, may be complied with, which provides that the charge for refining shall be equal to, but not exceed, the cost of the operation,

to be regulated from time to time by the Secy of the Treasury.

Please furnish me the desired information at your early convenience.

Yours Truly

Jas. Pollock

Director

Jas. C. Booth Esq.
Melter and Refiner
U. S. Mint.

Feby 1st 70

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 31st
inst, enclosing eight
recent coins received at
the U.S. Treasury, and
requesting information as to
their genuineness, has
been received.

After personal exam-
ination, I submitted the
coins to our Assayer for
definite Assay and
report. I herewith enclose
the report of Mr Eckfeldt
and the Assayer, which
confirms the judgment I
had formed of the coins,
[illegible] and

four counterfeit.

In addition to what Mr Eckfeldt has said, I may say as a further test you will find the motto "In God we trust", a good deal larger in the counterfeit than in the genuine. The yellow color of the counterfeit will also afford some test to. This appearance is caused by the presence of Zinc, which is not in the genuine.

I have retained one of the counterfeits. The other coins are returned herewith

Yours truly

Jas. Pollock
Dir Mint

Jno. C. Johnson Esq.
U.S. Treasury
New York

73

Feby 5th 70

Hon James Pollock
Director &c &c
Dear Sir

The five-cent nickel-copper pieces sent by Mr Johnson of the U.S. Treasury at New York, have given occasion to an interesting and important examination; the first of the kind that we have been called on to make. Hitherto, the counterfeits of this coin have usually been cast; but we have had a coinage, with dies

Ten were eight pieces. At first sight, the genuine appearance as to engraving and color, led to the belief that four were genuine, and four counterfeit; which on further trial proved to be the fact. Our most easy test, with all kinds of coin, is the weight, which counterfeits can seldom bring out right.

The true weight is 77½ grains. Three of the pieces were grossly in error, being under 70 grains; a fourth, suspected piece, happened to be just right. This last piece was subjected to assay, and proved to contain fourteen per cent. nickel, instead of twenty five, the lawful proportion. It also contained a large

portion of Zinc; making in fact the usual "German Silver". The dies were the same as in the other three, except the date, 1869; the others being '68 and '67. All of these four pieces have a yellowish tint; and the engraving is fat and coarse, but not sufficiently so to be detected by a hasty inspection. On the whole, it is a dangerous issue and proves that, with more skill in engraving and alloying, great frauds could be practised

The genuine pieces were close to the legal weight In this respect we have always found an admirable conformity, of our five-cent piece, as often as we have had occasion to try it.

The Specific gravity of the good pieces is 8.98, or might be called 9.00. — Of the bad pieces, 8.72; which in the hands of a careful weigher, would be a sure and conclusive test.

The pieces, excepting the one assayed are returned

Respectfully Yours

(Signed) J. R. Eckfeldt

Assayer

Febʸ 7ᵗʰ 70

Gentlemen

In compliance with your request of the 2ᵈ inst, I herewith send you by Adams Express, C.O.D. a package containing the specimen coins desired for the Belgian Mint, as per accompanying Bill #11 & together with a private pamphlet description of the U.S. Mint and its operations.

I have also enclosed a copy of my last Annual Report, together with a number of circulars and pamphlets relating to our Mint affairs that may perhaps interest your European Correspondent. I also enclose a copy of my Annual Report, and several other Mint documents for your own use if they should be of any interest to you.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Messrs Eugene Kelly & Co.

21 Nassau St

New York

Feb. 7. 70.

Sir,

Enclosed please find an order from the Agent of the Adams Express Company, here on the Agent of the Express Co. at Stumbird, Wis, to refund to you the $1 15/100 improperly charged to you on the lot of nickel coin mentioned in your letter of January 18th 1869.

Respectfully Yours
Jas Pollock
Director

Henry Grob, Esq.
Menomonie,
Wisconsin

[1] Act of April 22. 1864 pag 48. Sec 4

[2] Act of March 3. 1865, p. 49, Sec 3.

[3] Act of ~~March~~ May 16. 1866, p. 52. Sec 3.

[4] Act of March 3. 1851, p. 40. Sec 11.

[5] Act of Feb. 21. 1853, p 41. Sec 1, 2.

Febry 7th 70

Dear Sir

In pursuance of the Act of Congress, the Annual Assay of the Gold and Silver coinage of the United States for the past year, will be made at the Mint in this City on the second Monday, the 14th of February instant.

Under the terms of the law the Judge of the District Court of the U.S. Eastern Dist. of Penna, is "Ex-Officio" one of the Assay Commissioners; and I shall be pleased to see you at the Mint at 10 o'clock A.M. on the 14th instant, to enter upon the performance of your designated official duties.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon John Cadwallader
Judge U. S. District Court
Philadelphia Pa

Feby 7th 70

Dear Sir

In pursuance of the act of Congress the Annual Assay of the Gold and Silver coinage of the United States for the past year, will be made at the Mint in this City on the second Monday, (the 14th) of February inst.

Under the terms of the law the U. S. District Attorney for the Eastern Dist. of Penna, is "Ex-officio" one of the Assay Commissioners; and I shall be pleased to see you at the Mint at 10 o'clock A.M. on the 14th inst, to enter upon the performance of your designated official duties

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon Aubrey H. Smith
U. S. District Attorney
Philadelphia Pa

Febry 7th 70

Dear Sir

In pursuance of the Act of Congress, the Annual Assay of the Gold and Silver coinage of the United States for the past year will be made at the Mint in this City on the second Monday, the 14th, of February inst.

Under the terms of the law the Collector of the Port is "Ex Officio" one of the Assay Commissioners; and I shall be pleased to see you at the Mint at 10 o'clock A.M. on the 14th inst to enter upon the performance of your designated official duties

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Henry D. Moore
Collector of the Port. Phila'a

Feby 9th 70

Sir

I herewith transmit with my approval, Superintendent Lalrange's report of the monthly count and examination of moneys in the Office of the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at San Francisco, January 31st 1870.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Feb. 10 70

Sir,

I have duly received and approved your report of the monthly Count and Examination of Moneys in the office of the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at San Francisco, on the 31st of January 1870, and forwarded the same to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Respectfully Yours
Jas. Pleasant
Director

O. H. La Grange, Esq
Supt Br Mint
San Francisco Cal

Feby 14th 70

Hon John Cadwalader
Chairman Assay Commission
Dear Sir

In pursuance of the regulations in the case, I have to inform you that the Chief operative Officers of the Branch Mint at San Francisco, Cal, were changed during the year 1869, the following new appointments having been made by the President, viz.

O. H. La Grange, Supt. in place of R. B. Swaim
J. P. Cochran, Melter & Refiner in place of J. M. Eckfeldt
J. B. Hamstead, Coiner, in place of Wm Smaltz.
O. D. Munson, Assayer, in place of B. B. Martin

These new officers took charge of their respective departments, and entered upon the performance of their official duties, on the 14th of August 1869.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Febry 14th 70

Hon John Cadwalader
Chairman Assay Commission
Dear Sir

I have to report for the information of the Commission, that the Assay Coins from the Branch Mint at San Francisco, Cal, for the months of November and December 1868 were not received in time for the Annual Assay in February 1869.

I herewith transfer them to the custody of the present Commission, to be disposed of in the usual manner.

It appears from the minutes that the last Commission recommended that this should be done.

Very Respectfully Yours

Director

Feb. 16 70.

Sir,

The Mint circular of May 30. 1867, regulating the purchase of nickel-copper coins is still in force, and in compliance with your request of the 15th inst. I herewith send you fifty copies of it, together with a supply of circulars relating to the gold and silver coinage of the Mint, and the value of foreign Coins.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon. F. E. Spinner

Treasurer U.S.

Washington D.C.

Febry 17th 70

Sir

I herewith transmit a copy of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Assay Commissioners held at the Mint of the United States on the 14th and 15th days of February 1870.

The Commissioners, after the close of their labors, freely expressed the opinion that the result of their examination was not only creditable to the officers of the Mint and Branches; but exhibited an accuracy in the weight and fineness of the coins that was seldom equaled.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Feby 21st 70

Sir

Your letter of the 3d instant, requesting a "statement of the business operations of the Mint at Philadelphia from the first day of July 1869 to the thirty-first day of January 1870 &c", "for the purpose of reducing the force to the least practicable number consistent with the prompt and efficient discharge of the different operations of the Mint"; has been received.

In reply to the first request "to furnish the amount of gold and silver received from the Assay Office, New York; from the Branch Mint at San Francisco, and from Branch Mint at Denver;

I forward "Statement of deposits at the Mint of the U. S. Philadelphia from July 1st 1869 to January 31st 1870; marked "No 1."

2d item. "The number of clerks, workmen and employes engaged in the different processes of converting gold and silver bullion into coin, and the total compensation paid monthly to such clerks."

This question can be answered only by approximation. In conducting the operations of minting the gold, silver and base coins, the workmen and employes are so frequently and necessarily interchanged, and pass from one kind of coinage to the other according to the demands of the occasion, that it is almost impossible to say how many are

exclusively required for gold and silver coinage, and how many for base. When base coinage is in the ascendant, nearly the entire force of the Mint is then employed. When gold and silver deposits increase, and the demand for such coinage is urgent, the force is divided to meet the emergency. Thus it has happened that the expenses of the base coinage (which are wholly paid out of the profits of that coinage) have exceeded the ordinary account, from the fact that it has been largely in excess of the ordinary, or gold and silver coinage. Circumstances thus control both the number of employes and the expense of these branches of the coinage. Consequently we

can only approximate a definite reply to this and similar inquiries. On the monthly pay rolls, on file in the Treasury Department, the case, as to number and expenses, is as fully met as is possible, and from these a fair conclusion can be drawn.

The letter of Professor Booth, Melter and Refiner, (a copy of which I herewith enclose) will answer the above inquiry so far as his department is concerned, (See Schedule A. & B, and letter marked "No 2", attached) The number stated in the Professor's letter does not include the officers of the Mint, nor any one connected with them in their respective duties.

The average monthly compensation for the number reported by

5

Prof. Booth, is, on ordinary account (gold and silver coinage) $2463.54; base coinage $2439.84. We can also arrive at a fair monthly average of the compensation paid to employes and workmen (exclusive of officers and clerks named in act of Congress) by reference to the amount paid for the month ending January 31st 1870.

The total amount for the month (and this is a large average) was $24.699.93.

Paid on base coinage of $15.999.99

" Ordinary a/c excluding Officers and clerks) 8.269.94 $24.699.93

Now if we add to the amount paid on ordinary account the monthly salary of the officers and clerks which is paid out of the ordinary fund, we have this result, (approximate for the seven months

named) viz.

Base coinage account $15.999.99

Ordinary " 11.328.68

This Statement exhibits about the relative amount of the business of the Mint in gold and silver and base coinage; the base being in excess for the period named in the proportions indicated. The working force in gold and silver cannot be reduced. Professor Booth well remarks "It is true that the number of hands might be smaller (by 2 or 3) for the average business of the year, but then, the business demand is irregular, being alternately flush and spare; and, if at any time the demand is active, a less force would be

insufficient to operate in a short time. The attempt to spread business over a longer space of time, in order to work with less force, the attempt to equalize the irregularities of the money market, would certainly be regarded as false economy by the public, especially by all dealers in bullion and their numerous allies the brokers and others. I have seen no reason, in the experience of years, to change the opinion I formerly entertained, that the working force in gold and silver should always equal emergencies, and not be taxed tightly to an average. I would therefore deem a less force than we now have inadequate and inadvisable."

Item 3d. "The amount of cent coinage

executed monthy for the same period."

In answer I enclose Statement of Base Coinage Executed from July 1869 (inclusive) to January 31st 1870. Marked "No. 3."

Item 4. "The number of Clerks, Workmen and Employes of all kinds, male and female, employed in the base coinage; and the monthly compensation."

The answer given to the Second question or (Item 2) will apply to this. The ordinary and base coinage, in all the Departments, as before remarked, are so frequently interchanged, that we cannot, with any certainty or propriety assign a definite and exclusive number of operatives to

each branch separately; consequently the number and compensation monthly are determined by the circumstances of the case.

The whole number of employes, male and female, in the Chief Coiner's Department, January 31/70, was 199,- males 116, females 83. Number required on gold and silver coinage 119,- on base coinage (with the aid of the 119 when required) 80. Monthly compensation in the proportion above indicated, in answer to Item No. 2.

The total number of employes and workmen (exclusive of the commissioned officers, and the seven clerks referred to) was on January 31st 1870, 317,- now 316. Males 234, Females 83.

From the reports of the respective

operative officers, this number, owing to the decrease of the base coinage, may be reduced (male and female) perhaps 50, leaving the number required about 266, a number believed to be sufficient for the business of the Mint, if things continue as at present. Perhaps after trial, a still further reduction might be attempted, and will, if deemed advisable.

I had made arrangements for reducing our force before receiving your letter, and it will always be my pleasure, as well as duty, to co-operate with the Government in the reduction of expenditures, and the avoidance of every thing that tends to extravagance, or a waste of the public

"

funds.

Since my induction into office, I have reduced the working force of the Mint largely, and endeavored to meet the decline in business by a corresponding reduction in force. A comparison of a few months before I entered upon my duties as Director, with the past month, (and others of my term) will show this decrease, which was necessary (among other reasons) by the decrease of the base coinage.

Compare January 1869 with January 1870.

Janry 1869, number employed, exclusive of officers & clerks 387. Compen. $29.877.74

" 1870 " 317 " 24.269.92

decrease in force 70 " $5.107.82

Again

12

March 1869, number 4044, Com. $32.637.92
Janry 1870 " 317. " 24.269.92
Decrease 87 " 7.768.00

Again, April '69 number 384, Com. $28.348.62
" Janr 1870 " 317 " 24.269.92
Decrease 67 " 4.078.70
Proposed " 50
Total decrease 117 over april 1869.

The decrease will be in the base coinage department. The gold and silver coinage will admit of no decrease: and the Estimates for the year ending June 30th 1871, cannot be reduced, as they are based upon the lowest possible force required in that Department.

The reduction of expenses will therefore be to the Credit of the Base Coinage Account. The

introduction of the eight hour system has made necessary an increase in the number of employes and workmen to meet the decrease in the number of hours.

I have stated the minimum number of employes to required hereafter to be 266. Under the ten hour system 213 would be equivalent to 266; consequently we require 53 more employes under the present law, than under the former.

The statement required of "the amount of gold and silver bullion refined and separated monthly for the same period, - an estimate of the cost of refining and sepa=rating such bullion," "and the amount of charges received", is

now being prepared, and will soon be forwarded in a separate communication as requested.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas Pollock
Director

Hon Jno. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Ent 282

February 2:3. 70

3 ~~4~~ -

~~4th~~ 3rd 4

June 30. 70.

Forty Eight thousand

~~Three hundred & seventy five~~ ——

July 1st 69.

9,475. —

31,250. —

6,250. —

150. —

1,250 —

$ 48,375.00

Geo. S. Boutwell

Jas. Pollock
Director

Feb. 25 70.

Sir

I am informed that the Mint estimates for the coming fiscal year for "Incidental and contingent Expenses, including wastage on gold and silver; new machinery and repairs," have been cut down by the Committee on Appropriations from $35,000 (the amount appropriated last year) to $25,000. being a reduction of $10,000.

If it is true $25,000. was the amount appropriated for that purpose in some former years, and under the regulations then prevailing was deficient for the wants of the Mint; and I presume the Committee supposed they were merely restoring the old order of things. But they were doubtless not

not aware of the fact that the general appropriation act of July 20. 1835, Statutes at Large, page 107, provided for the first time in the history of the Mint "That hereafter all the available profits of the United States Mint and Branches, shall be covered into the treasury, to be expended only by a specific appropriation."

Under this proviso, all the deductions as "profits," from the gold and silver coinage that had previously been paid into the treasury of the Mint to the crediting of the "Ordinary fund", and available for incidentals, were thenceforward into the U.S. Treasury, and the Mint was cut off from the use of that portion of its accustomed resources. To make up for this diversion, an increase of $10,000, in the item of "Incidentals" became necessary; and $35,000.

was accordingly appropriated for that purpose for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1870.

I consider the same amount absolutely necessary for the fiscal year, ending June 30th 1871. The Mint will be crippled and Embarrassed in its operations without it; and I will therefor thank you, for our protection, to advise the proper authorities of that fact, before the Appropriation bill is finally acted on.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D. C.

Feby 26 70

Sir

The pieces sent by you for examination, prove to be spurious in every case. The light weight was alone sufficient to detect them. They contained no precious metals; and according to your directions have been destroyed, by melting; except two counterfeits of the quarter eagle, which I have thought worth holding for comparisons.

The pieces pretending to be silver, were not of the usual type-metal mixture, but chiefly tin, with an alloy of antimony to give sharpness. They were cast in moulds and coated with silver. One half dollar, however, was struck from dies, of rude workmanship. None of these pieces had any thing like the genuine look, to an eye at all practised in coin.

The counterfeits of the quarter eagle were more respectable, so far as this, that

they were not casts, but struck from dies, the exact counterpart of genuine dies, and made by a mechanical process which has been long known, though not much used. They are simply brass, with a very light gilding. Both in color and levity they were easily known as false. It is worthy of remark that they were all (but one) of the date 1861, and evidently from the same pair of dies.

Very respectfully
your obt servt
Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon.
W. E. Spinner
Treasurer U. S.

P.S. Enclosed please find my certificate of the facts, as requested in your letter of the 6th inst.

Feb 26, 1870.

Jas. Pollock
Director

Feb. 26. 70.

I certify that on the 25th day of February, 1870, I received by Express from the Hon. F. E. Spinner Treasurer of the United States the following Spurious Gold and Silver Coins" in the "74 pieces of $2.50 ... $85.

6	1.	6.
23	.50¢	11.50
263	.25¢	65.75
		$268.25¢

to be examined and their value reported; that they have been examined and fully tested, and found to contain no gold or silver, but were wholly spurious, and have therefore been destroyed, as requested, except two quarter Eagles, retained for comparison.

Jas. P. [illegible]

Director U.S. Mint

Dec. 28. 70.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 24th inst., enquiring about the proportion of counterfeits among the small coin circulation, has been duly received.

I suppose it would be impossible to find any definite figures that would be satisfactory, as to the proportion of counterfeits of our smaller & inferior coins, relatively to the counterfeiting of small notes.

It appears that the bags of nickel five-cent pieces in the U. S. Treasury in this city, show an average of about 20 to 25 cents false, in a hundred dollars; say one-fourth of one per cent. My information from other cities corroborates this average. I take this to be

2

to be a pretty fair representation of that currency generally. As to the spurious fractional currency in paper, the common impression is that there is a much larger proportion afloat, and that impression I believe is well founded; but that may arise from the fact that there is so much more of paper than metallic currency.

The question which is probably of Equal importance to your purposes is, which kind of currency is most liable to be counterfeited? And on due reflection it appears to me there is little choice; the one can be imitated as well as the other; the paper money perhaps the more readily and perfectably. I do not mean by that, that it is easy to make close and dangerous counterfeits of either kind. They are mostly such as

any

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any one with ordinary watchfulness would readily throw out.

I must say, however, that we have scarcely been aware of attempts to imitate the silver pieces of five and ten cents.

The nickel five-cent piece is so much the color of new type-metal, that it is considerably exposed to imitation by casting in plaster moulds, a cheap and easy process. Still, such pieces have a sort of greasy touch, and peculiar look, which generally insures their detection. The nickel counterfeit five-cent piece, when newly issued is dangerous, and not so readily detected; but in a very short time, by exposure to the air, and circulation, it reveals its true character, both to the touch and sight.

Silver has various peculiarities, as well adapted for coin,

that

that the common people more readily learn to reject its imitations, than those of paper money.

It will always give me pleasure to correspond with you on any subject you may deem proper.

Very Truly Yours

Jas. Gallatin
Director

Hon John Scott
U.S. Senate

Feb 28. 70

Sir,

After the close of business, today, I made the usual monthly count and Examination of monies in the office of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following results:

Gold	$ 485,228.07
Silver	19,457.51
Ordinary account	29,389.14
Nickel & Copper fund	122,195.57
San Francisco Br Mint	11,962.28
Denver Br Mint	446.69
Carson City Br Mint	1,112.99
Total	$ 669,792.18

I also, at the same time, made Examination into the general condition and operations of the Mint, and found the institution to be in good working order, and its business conducted in a

Carefu

careful and satisfactory manner.

Very Respectfully

Jos. Pollard

Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

March 1 70

Sir,

Your two letters of Feb. 2nd and 28th have been duly received.

I have not had any suggestions from Mr. Torrey in reference to the Mills patent for refining Gold by means of Chlorine gas, nor have we had occasion here to make any Experiments upon the subject.

Respectfully Yours

Jno. Tolbert
Director

E. S. Renwick, Esq
34 Beach Street
New York

March 1, 70

Sir,

The piece of mineral mentioned in your letter of Feb. 23rd was forwarded to me by the Treasury Department Washington D.C. and having been duly assayed; proves to be galena, yielding 79 per cent of lead, but no silver.

Respectfully Yours
Jas. Eads
Director

A. M. Austin, Esq
Cairo, Ill.

March 1 70

Sir

In compliance with your request of February 25th I today send you by Adams Express, C.O.D. Twenty four (24) ounces of fine silver, of 999‰ fine @ $1.32 in fractional silver coin per oz, amounting to $31.68 as per receipted bills in duplicate accompanying the package.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Ellicott
Director

Gen. B. McCartee, Esq
Chief Bureau Engraving & Printing
Treasury Department
Washington D.C.

March 2nd 70

Sir

In further reply to your communication of the 3rd Ult, requesting a Statement of the business operations of the Mint at Philadelphia from the first day of July 1869 to the 31st day of January 1870 &c., and also in a separate communication to transmit a statement to your Department, giving the amount of gold and Silver bullion refined and separated monthly during the last Seven months, — the amount of charges received from Depositors for refining and separating such bullion and an estimate of the cost of the process during that period of time," I enclose a report from Prof Booth, Melter & Refiner giving in a clear and satisfactory manner a reply to your inquiries.

I have examined it with care and approve its statements and results. I also enclose

enclose statement of Refining and Parting charges received from Depositors at U.S. Mint from July 1st 1869 to Feby 1st 1870 "Marked D."

Yours very Respectfully

Geo Eyck

Director

Hon Geo S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D.C

March 4. 70.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this morning, of your letter of inquiry of the 2nd instant with regard to copies of medals you desire for the Royal Danish Cabinet at Copenhagen.

In reply I have to say that in order to facilitate your purpose I will send you any or all of the Bronze Medals in the printed list herewith Enclosed, at a reduction of fifty (50) per cent on the catalogue price. The descriptions will probably Enable You to make selections to Your own satisfaction, better than if I were to attempt it myself.

I am

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

Mr. Excellency
T. Belle
Danish Minister Resident
Washington D.C.

March 5. 70

Dear Sir,

In reply to your verbal request of yesterday, on behalf of your Government, to be informed of the cost of the Bronze and Nickel small coins of the United States, I have the honor to say, that the cost cannot be rigidly stated, because the prices of metals fluctuate, and a large coinage would cost less on an average than a small one. Supposing a pretty large amount, the following may be given.

	Cost of 100 pieces	Cost of 100 Dollars
5 cent piece, 3/4 Copper 1/4 nickel	$ cts	$ cts
5 grammes = 77 1/2 grains	1.40	28.00
3 cent piece, as above, 32 grains	1.10	36.67
2 cent piece, Bronze, 96 grains	1.20	60.00
1 cent piece, bronze, 48 grains	1.00	100.00

The one cent of nickel alloy, 1½ grams

(proposed) would cost about the same as the Bronze cent.

The above prices are in gold valuation, and include labor, materials and metals of which the coins are made.

I am, with great respect,
Your Obedient servant,
Jas Pollock
Director

L. de la Cuesta, Esq.
Mexican Consul,
1719 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa

March 7 70

Gentlemen,

In reply to your letter of the 4th inst. I have to state that we have a large supply of nickel on hand; are using very little, comparatively; and will not need to get any more for a twelve-month to come.

Respectfully Yours

Jas Pollock
Director

Messrs. C. Robbins
H. R. Robbins
104 John St
N. Y.

Mar 7 70

Sir

In compliance with your letter of the 24th ultimo, I have the honor to forward "a State-ment showing the names, designation, compensation, date of appointment and Act under which paid, of all the employes of the Mint including Workmen, Adjusters and Laborers."

The total number now in the Mint, excluding the Commissioned Officers (5) is 271; whole number of em-ployes in February last (ex-cluding Commissioned officers) was 327, showing a reduction of 56, which was made at the close of that Month (February).

Comparing March 1869. with
March 1870 we have this result.

March 1869 (excl. Com. offices)		4114
March 1870	"	271
Reduction		143

The number on the Rolls May 1st 1869, (when I came into office) was - - - - - - - - - - 394

March 1st 1870	271
Reduction	123

Very Respectfully Yours

Jno. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Mar 7 70

R. C. Haff Esq.
Dear Sir

The two pieces (five cent coins) sent to me for examination, were duly received.

I enclose the result of the examination as made by the Assayer and Chief Coiner of the Mint.

The coins were not counterfeit, as appears from the report of the officers named.

If you can furnish me with two or three more specimens like

those sent, & will direct a further examination to be made.

We have no doubt of the genuineness of the pieces sent

Yours Truly

J. W. Powell
Director

March 7 70

Sir

The Silver Bullion Fund of the Mint, as nearly as can be estimated by the Melter and Refiner, is now about $30.000 in fine silver. To enable the Mint "to make returns to Depos=itors with as little dela= possible", this amon= be at least doubled. deposits of silver bullion a= increasing; as also the demand for silver coinage, and we are compelled to delay the payment of the value of the deposits to the depositor. We anticip= larger increase in depos= and demand for coinage.

I would therefore

respectfully request that you procure from the President of the United States direction for the transfer of $30.000. to be made by the Asst Treasurer of the U.S. in this City to the Treasurer of the Mint for the purpose of increasing the silver bullion fund of the Institution, in pursuance of the Act of Congress of May 23. 1850 Little & Brown Ed.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C

March 9 70

Sir

The bar of base silver was twice assayed according to our rule, with the same results. Lest there should be a want of mixture in melting, it has just been remelted and re-assayed, and resulted as before.

The gold contained was two thousandths, making about twenty two dollars; not enough to pay for taking out, and therefore not reported.

Yours truly
J. A. Pollock
Director.

S. A. Peugh Esq
Washington

March 10 70

Sir

I have duly received your letter of the 5th inst, enclosing photographs of a medal for the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society, and inquiring the probable cost of dies, and price of the medals in silver and in bronze.

The estimated cost of engraving the dies will be about $250. They can be prepared in about two months after receiving the order, though we would prefer to be allowed three months.

The bronze medals will cost from $1.25 to $1.75 each; and the silver medals say from $5 to $6 each, according to the exact weight which we cannot now determine with precise accuracy

Respectfully Yours

J. A. Pollock
Director

Geo. W. Riddle Esq
Treas N. H. State Agl. Soc.
Manchester N. H.

March 10th 70

My Dear Sir

Your letter of the 8th instant has been received.

Whilst the purchase of bullion with $30.000 in gold now in the gold bullion fund here, or to be transferred, would answer the purpose of increasing our Silver fund, yet, I fear the effect of such purchase, should it be known that the Government was buying silver, would be to increase the pre=mium, and at least tempor=arily disturb the market, which now, happily, is in a falling condition.

There is a considerable amount of silver in the

Asst Treasury in New York; and a transfer from that office here would fully meet our wants, and be satisfactory to our New York friends; as it would enable us to make a more speedy return in coin to their depositors.

In buying silver we pay in silver coin, and depositors of silver bullion are paid only in silver coin. See enclosed Circular in relation to deposits of silver bullion.

Perhaps by direction of the Secy of the Treasury silver deposits might be paid in gold, as there is no law positively prohibiting it; but as the demand is for <u>silver coin</u>, and the <u>lower fractions of the dollar</u>, such

authority would not be of much advantage, as the depositor would still require the silver.

The silver coins provided for in the Act of Feb. 21. 1853, and referred to in Sec. 44, page 41 of Mint Pamphlet, can only be paid out at the Mint in exchange for gold coins at par; they cannot be exchanged for silver coins, but can be paid out for silver purchases, or for silver bullion deposited.

I cannot furnish you with a copy of the Regulations for the transmission of coin to Assistant Treasurers of the U. S. and other officers, but the rule and practice may be thus stated. "In case the Treasurer of the U. S. wishes to make a transfer of gold

or silver coin to any Asst Treasurer or U. S. Depository, the usual method is for the Treasurer of the U. S. by direction of the Secy of the Treasury, to issue a transfer draft on the Treasurer of the Mint for the amount, in favor of either of the above parties, with instructions to the Treasurer to send whatever denomination of coin may be wanted by the party above mentioned, the Mint paying transportation for the same. The amount of said transfer draft is to be charged against the Bullion fund."

If we cannot get the silver by transfer; and authority should be given to purchase $30.000 for gold, we will use

the utmost care to prevent a disturbance of the Market in making the purchases.

It is very necessary and desirable to increase our Silver Bullion Fund.

Yours Very Truly

Jas. Ellwood
Director

Hon John Jay Knox
Deputy Comptr Currency
Washington D.C.

Mch 11. 70

Gentlemen,

If you will return the enclosed bills duly receipted, I will remit the amount due, by return mail.

May I ask why you charge us $6 instead of $5.2

Respectfully Yours

J. W. Pollock

Director

Messrs Silliman & Dana
Pubs Silliman's Journal
New Haven, Conn.

March 12. 70

Gentlemen,

Enclosed please find copies of two bills against the Mint, dated January 19, 1870, one in the name of your Agent, Mr. Fessenden, for $22.98, and one in the name of Mr. Stanley for $29.13. Will you please explain the discrepancy in the amount of the two bills, and advise me to whom the amount that will be really due, should be paid?

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Ellwood

Director

To the

Boston & Sandwich Glass Co.

Boston, Mass.

Mar 12 70

C. F. McCay Esq.

Dear Sir

Yours of 11th inst duly rec'd.

The package of gold dust referred to, was received on March 3d, and the proceeds, $61.74, were returned to your address, by Adams Express, on March 5th.

It is probably at the Express Office awaiting your call.

Yours Truly

Jas. Pollock

Director

Mch 14 70

Gentlemen,

I duly received your letter of Feb 12th advising me of the Shipment by Express of a lot of gold from New Mexico, of the Estimated value of $154. to be converted into coin. Up to this date the Gold has not come to hand, and your order has, therefore, not yet been Executed.

Respectfully Yours
Jas. Pollock
Director

Messrs Webster, Merrick & Co
Phil Sheridan
Kansas.

Mch 15. 70

Madam,

In reply to your letter of March 10th I regret to say that the Gold Bar which you say was Expressed from Helena, Montana Territory "Jany 27 1869" has not yet been received at the Mint. We are not able, therefore, to send you the proceeds in coin, as requested. If the bar should come to hand you shall be promptly Executed.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Mrs. C. Mead
New York
(Care of Wells, Fargo & Co)

Ent 321

March 16. 70

Dear Sir,

I duly received your letter with regard to Mr. B. F. Miller's process for refining and separating Gold and Silver; together with the accompanying papers.

I submitted the matter to our Assayer Mr. Eckfeldt, and to Prof. Booth, Mr. R. each of whom furnished me an Opinion on the subject, in writing, copies of which I herewith Enclose, and will thank you to forward them to Mr. Miller, or the party from you received the papers.

The documents you sent, are herewith returned.

Respectfully Yours

J. R. Snowden
Director

Prof. John Torrey
New-York

Mch 17. 70

Gentlemen,

I am today in receipt of your letter of the 15th inst.

If you will send me the Enclosed bill as duplicate, duly receipted, I will remit the Amount, $22.95, by return mail. The receipt should be signed by some Member of the Firm, or, if it be an Incorporated Company, by the Treasurer. If it be signed by the Agent, then the power of attorney authorizing him to act for the Company, must accompany the receipted bill in order to effect a settlement of the account at Washington

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Elliott

Director

Boston & Sandwich Glass Co.
Boston, Mass.

March 18 70

Eliot National Bank

Boston, Mass.

Your remittance of $100. Gold and $300. Currency, has been duly received.

In return for the Gold we send you today by Express, the Enclosed receipt, as requested,

40	Silver Whole Dollars @ $1.00	=	$43.20
40	" Half "	=	20.00
80	" Quarters "	"	21.00
100	" Dimes	=	10.00
136	" Half Dimes	"	6.80
			$100.00

The whole Dollars are intrinsically worth Eight cents, each more than a dollar in the lesser denominations. We deducted the difference from the half dimes.

Proof coins are a separate
affair, and cost about 33 per
cent more.

The one, and five cent
nickel coins, will be pre-
-pared as you request.

Respectfully Yours
Jas. Pollock
Director

March 21. 7[illegible]

Gentlemen,

Your letter of the 15th inst. has been duly received.

You can have Mexican whole dollars, and halves, and quarters, recoined into United States halves and quarters, at a profit, on the terms of the enclosed circular, which I send for your information and guidance. You can send the coin and receive the proceeds in return, by Express. The Adams Express Company have an Office and Agent in the Mint building, and take charge of such shipments as agent for the depositors.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Messrs
Townsend & Lipman,
New Orleans, La.

Mar. 21st 70

Sir

Your letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated Feb. 22d. in relation to an improved method of granulating gold and silver, has been referred to me for examination and further correspondence.

I have consulted Prof. Booth, our Melter & Refiner, on the subject, and herewith enclose a copy of his letter to me in reply.

An improved method is desirable if one can be devised that will not hazard loss of metal.

If you will inform me (confidentially, if you so

desire) what your proposed plan is, I will have it carefully and fairly ex=amined, and give you my opinion of its merits

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Mr John Fair
San Francisco

Mar. 21st 76

Sir

I duly received your letter of 10th instant, transmitting letter of Mr John Fair in relation to an improved method of granulating gold and silver.

The project has been taken into consideration and a correspondence opened with Mr Fair, to get further particulars of his alleged discovery, in order to determine its nature and value.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secy of the Treasury

Mar. 22d 70

Dear Sir

It gives me pleasure to comply with the request in your note of the 17th inst, accompanying your Bill for International Coinage.

In the first place let me say, for myself and the whole corps of officers at the Mint, that while we like the idea of simplifying and unifying the moneys of commercial nations, and believe that the only basis that is likely to succeed is contained in your Bill; yet we feel that the subject is not free from objections, and the plan may meet with opposition.

In my last Annual Report (page 14,) on the subject of International

Coinage, I said, "This interesting subject has for years engaged the attention of leading minds in our own and other commercial countries. The matter seems to have come to a stand-still, from the fact that England does not seem to be prepared to fall in with all the pre-requisites. Certainly, it would be an advantage to the whole world, if a pound sterling, and five dollars, and twenty five francs meant the same thing precisely, and were not mere approaches to each other, as they are at present. But whether it is worth while to unsettle or root out monetary systems which have become so fixed, and are found to be so satisfactory for internal purposes,

merely to satisfy an exterior, or commercial want, is a question which calls for very deliberate reflection. It may be, that we could retain our dollar and its divisions, and England could keep to her pounds, shillings and pence, and France to her Francs, for home use; while these and other nations might unite in a money of account, of easy re= =lation to existing systems.

Then, all commercial and State papers could express sums of money in that common medium. We could easily learn to talk about money in two sets of terms; our forefathers had to do it, when colonial pounds, and new dollars, stood in parallel columns. But in settling upon

a money of account, each nation would be obliged to yield somewhat, and not expect that other nations should bend to one. We cannot agree to the pound nor the franc; the one is too large, the other too small. If our cherished dollar will not suit other countries, we might consent to a double dollar as the unit, on the ground of its being made the same as ten francs, or one hundred pence sterling."

For this reason we are glad, however, that your Bill contemplates gold only; for the proposed movement for a new fractional silver currency is quite a distinct affair, and if properly presented, can hardly

be met by a dissenting voice.

And I will take this occasion to say, that inasmuch as a third Bill respecting the Mint and coinage, revolutionizing the whole system of operations, is likely soon to be pressed upon Congress, which Bill I consider objectionable and unnecessary, and believe your Committee will agree with me, — I hope that the Bills for a new gold coinage, and a new silver coinage, will not be amalgamated therewith, and thereby endanger the passage of measures really promotive of the public good.

I will now discuss the several sections in detail.

1st The weight, 124 9/20 grains, for the half-eagle, will bring us into

exact harmony with the franc system. In some respects, 125 grains would be better; but this would spoil the great object of the Bill, unless the other nations could be induced to adopt that weight, which is in better accordance with the metrical system than the weight proposed.

2d. Our Assayers, and indeed all the Officers, are much disposed to restrict the limits of deviation in any law providing for an International Coinage. The advanced state of our art admits of this, and a proper check requires it. We say then, "one thousandth"; instead of "two." Of France and Belgium work so loosely as to send out coins at 898 when they should be 900.

that is no reason why we should do the same. And if International Coinage is to be a reality, those nations must be faithful to their standards.

The deviation from weight are right, as to single pieces. But our Chief Coiner recommends a uniform rate for large lots, and a dis=missal of the crude old term pennyweights. I agree with him, and advise (lines 12 to 15) "one hundredth of one ounce on each parcel of one thousand dollars in any denomination of coin." As to the devices & no better mode of expression could be adopted.

Sec. 3d, I submit, on the question of legal tender, whether it

would not give the Act a more extended and simple application, and be every way just, to say, "in all transactions where the present legal tender currency is payable." This would exclude specific contracts in gold. And certainly any one who expected to be paid in greenbacks, would be willing to take the new gold. The addition of 3/10 per cent would then be applicable only to the national debt, and to other debts pledged to be paid in gold. But this is a mere incidental opinion, and does not touch the main question.

Sec. 4. I hope the foreign coins will not be made a legal tender here. It is not a necessity

to the international idea, which contemplates the equal=izing of moneys, but does not propose that the heads of European Sovereigns, and all sorts of inscriptions, French, German and the rest, shall pass current amongus, or beyond commercial ports. We can make our own currency. More than that, the Mints of France and Belgium, and probably Italy also, do not make their gold coin of full standard, and until they do, their coins ought not to be a legal tender here. at the same time it would be true in a commercial sense that five dollars, and twenty-five francs meant the same thing. The

remaining Sections are correct and clear. But I beg leave to suggest one more, which seems necessary to complete the Bill, and is desirable and just on other accounts.

Sec. 8. The Mint charge of one half of one per cent for coinage is hereby abolished; and from and after the passage of this Act, the charge upon all gold coins, and upon all stamped bars of gold and silver, shall be one eight of one per cent

Yours Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon Samuel Hooper M. C.
Washington D.C

March 23. 70.

Sir,

I have duly received your Letter of the 22nd inst, enclosing transfer draft on Philadelphia No. 1295, for $200. That amount in One cent nickel Coin will be sent to you to day by Express, according to your directions.

Very Respectfully

J. W. Alcock

Director

Hon. F. E. Spinner

Treasurer U.S.

Washington D.C.

Mch 23 70

Messrs Silliman & Dana
New Haven, Conn

Gentlemen

I enclose $6. in payt of your duplicate receipted bills for the subscription of the Mint to Silliman's Journal for the year 1869.

Yours Truly
Ed. Bloody
Director

March 25. 70

Sir,

In compliance with your request of the 24th inst. I send you by today's Mail twenty five circulars with regard to the redemption of Nickel-Copper cts.

Very Respectfully

W. P. Wood

Director

Hon J. F. Hartley

Assistant Sec'y of the Treasury

Washington D.C.

Int

March 26. 70.

Sir,

Respectfully referring to my former letters of the 12th and 17th inst. I have to state that the Enclosed duplicate receipted bills, $22.25/100, received this morning in your letter of the 25th inst, are radically defective as vouchers and cannot be paid in their present shape. The items which make up the bill must be specified in detail, and if you sign the receipt as Agent, documentary Evidence of your authority so to do, must accompany the bill, in accordance with the Established regulations of the Treasury Department at Washington. Your bill and the Harbaugh's, of the same date, being

for the same supplies, cannot both be paid. I repeat, if your Company is incorporated, the bills must be receipted by the Treasurer; if merely a partnership, then by a member of the Firm; or a warrant of Attorney authorizing you to rec't as Agent must be filed with the receipted bills.

Respectfully Yours

J. A. Pollock
Director

Sewell H. Fessenden, Agent
Boston & Sandwich Glass Co.
Boston, Mass.

Mch 29. 70

Sir

Enclosed I send you sight draft of Jay Cooke & Co. on their N.Y. house to your order, for $22 95 in full of the receipted bill of the Boston & Sandwich Comp'y against the Mint, which came to hand this morning.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Graham Rogers, Esq.
Treas. Boston & Sandwich Glass Co.
Boston, Mass.

Mch 30. 70.

Gentlemen,

I have no knowledge of the purchase of the Machine for coining referred to in your letter of the 29th inst. which if made was during the term of my predecessor in office & I am not able to furnish the information you call for.

Respectfully Yours

J. A. Pollock
Director

Messrs
M. Echeverria & Co.
Box 2851 P.O.
New York

Mch 30. 70.

Sir,

I have the honor to state that on the 26th inst, I deposited with Gov. Taylor, Ex Asst Treas. U.S. to your official credit, the sum of Two thousand Dollars ($2,000) on account of profit, derived from the Medal department of the Mint; as per certificate of that date, No. 3998, herewith Enclosed.

Very Respectfully

Jas Ellwood
Director

Hon. F. E. Spinner
Treasurer U.S.
Washington D.C.

Mch 30. 70.

Sir,

Your letter of the 23rd inst has been received today.

The denomination and value of the coins of the United States are regulated by the Acts of Congress. The difference of intrinsic value between a whole silver dollar, and two halves is the difference between 412½ and 384 grains - or 28½ grains - about seven (7) cents. The whole dollars are made to order, chiefly for the China and East India trade, where the dollar of less value would not be received, and frequently for Silversmiths, to be worked up in the arts. There is no law to prevent the owners of whole silver dollars from cir-

-lating them at home if they choose. It is not for the Mint to say what they shall do with them.

The fractional silver coins (half dollar and less) are coined at a less rate, partly to keep them, in spite of paying times, from being hoarded or exported, and partly because it is not necessary, for the purposes of change, that they should be of full intrinsic value. They are a legal tender only to the amount of five ($5) dollars.

The silver dollar, formerly the standard of value and medium of payment, has become higher market value than the gold dollar by about 3 per cent. Therefore the payer takes his option to pay in gold, and the silver dollar is

not wanted. Formerly (before California and Australia produced gold) an ounce standard silver was worth, say 116½ cents gold, in the bullion market, as well as by acts of Congress. Now, an ounce standard silver is worth, say 120 cents, gold, in the bullion market; there being no law which says we shall give one metal for the other. The whole silver dollar was, and is, coined at the 116½ rate; add 3 per cent to that, with the ½ per cent charge for coining, and you have 120 as above.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

A. W. Tappan, Esq.
Elko,
Nevada,

April 1st 70

Sir

At the close of last month (March), the following additional reductions in the force of this Institution, were made in pursuance of instructions contained in your letter of March 1st 1870.

viz

Chief Coiner's Department.

Rollers, 3. Blacksmith 1.

Watchmen 3. Total - 7.

Melter & Refiner's Department

Melters, 4.

Ladies 2 = 6, Grand Total 13.

Number of Employes, March 1st 1870. 271

Reduction, April 1st 1870 13

Number of Employes, April 1st 1870. 258

Very Respectfully

Jas. P. Kirk

Director

Hon. Jas. S. Boutwell

Secy of the Treasy

April 1. 70.

Sir,

After the closing business yesterday, March 31st. I made the usual monthly count and examination of monies in the office of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result:

Gold	$ 342,518.85
Silver	58,263.93
Ordinary account	54,525.00
Copper Fund	135,270.04
San Francisco Br. Mint	11,962.25
Denver " "	394.52
Carson City " "	1,100.07
	$ 604,034.69

I made examination at the same time into the general condition and operations of the Mint, and found the institution to be in good working order, and its business conducted in a care-

-ful and satisfactory manner,

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Ballow

Printer

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

Washington D.C.

April 1st 70

Sir

At the close of last month, March 31st, the following additional reductions in the force of this Institution, were made, in pursuance of instructions contained in your letter of March 1st 1870, viz.

Chief Coiner's Department		
Rollers	3	
Watchmen	3.	
Blacksmith	1	
Ladies	2, Total	9
Melter & Refiner's Dep't.		
Melters	5	5
	Grand Total	14.

Number of Clerks & employes, March 1st 70	271
Reduction April 1st 1870	14
Number Clerks & employes Apl. 1/70	257

Total reduction in March
and April 1870 = .70

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

April 1st 70

Sir

I herewith enclose Statement of Deposits and Coinage at this Institution for the month of March 1870.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secy of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

April 1. 70.

Sir,

I enclose receipt of the Adams Express Company for one parcel containing 100 oz granulated silver for L.E. Walker, Esq, Photographer of the Treasury Department, ordered per your letter of March 28th.

I also enclose duplicate receipted bills for the same $139.92 which I ask you to remit in silver coin, or by coin draft. Very Respectfully Yours

J.C. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Apl 2. 70

Dear Sir

Enclosed please find Five Dollars ($5.) in full of your duplicate receipted bills, at hand this morning, for the Subscription of the Mint to Vols. VII and VIII of the Historical Magazine. I will thank you to discontinue the Magazine at the close of the current year.

Yours Truly

Jas. Pollock
Director

Henry B. Dawson, Esq.
Morrisania,
New York

April 2 70

Sir,

I enclose with my approval, requisition dated the 1st inst of Thos. C. Acton, Esq Supt of the U.S Assay Office New York, for the sum of Thirty Seven thousand ($37,000) Dollars, out of the appropriation for the support of that institution for the current fiscal year; and have to request that the same may receive immediate attention.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

Washington, D.C.

April 4 70

Sir

I am this morning in receipt of your letter of the 1st inst. inquiring what steps to take in order to procure 40 ozs pure silver, for chemical purposes, for which you have a requisition from the Navy Department.

If you will send an order on me, as Director of the Mint, enclosing a copy of the requisition, I will forward the silver to you by Express, payable in gold coin, on delivery.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

E. O. Matthews, Lieut. Comg
& Head of the Torpedo Corps
Newport, R. I.

April 5. 70.

Sir,

Yours of the 2nd inst. is at hand this morning.

Twenty-five-cent gold pieces were issued by private parties in California some years ago, but none were ever issued by the U.S. Mint, and I cannot, therefore furnish any.

The Mint executes coinage for depositors of bullion, but does not keep coins for sale.

Respectfully Yours

[signature]

Director

Jas. E. Hanson, Esq
Hoboken, N.J.

Apl 7. 70

Gentlemen,

I am unable to comply with your request of the 6th inst. to send you 3 silver dollars, in return for your remittance of $3. gold, which I herewith enclose. You can procure them of Bankers who deal in coin. The Mint does not make such exchanges. Besides, a silver $ is intrinsically worth $1.05, and you enclose in 3 cents short.

The only coin the Mint sells in small quantities, are proof sets, containing one specimen of the silver $ & each of its subdivisions, and of each piece of base coinage. The price for a set is $3. in coin, or $3.32 in currency.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Messrs
Geo. P. Bissell & Co.
Hartford, Conn.

April 7 70

Sir,

In reply to your letter of March 31st I have to state that according to the books of the Mint, it appears that the amount of deposits by the Brown Silver Mining Company from 1867 to date, is $78,781.79

Respectfully Yours

[illegible]

Director

Mr. J. C. Hite,
Lancaster, O.

April 8. 70.

Sir,

The original requisition, enclosed in your letter of the 6th inst. requires, as you will see, upon examining the foot note, that the 40 oz pure silver you desire, must be ordered by the Paymaster at Boston. I therefore return the requisition and your letter, so that the order may come to me through the proper channel. The cost of the silver will be $55.22 at the Mint, payable in silver half dollars, or a coin draft. If you will undertake to pay the amount on delivery of the silver to you at Newport, I will send it to you there, by Express, accompanied by duplicate receipted bills in the name of the Paymaster, if you will give me his

name in order that it may be in proper shape for a voucher. If this arrangement will not suit your convenience, then the silver and bill must be sent to the Paymaster at Boston, on receipt of his order, and he will have to forward the silver to you from that point.

Respectfully Yours,

Jas. Pollock
Director.

E. O. Matthews
Lieut Comg &
Head of Torpedo Corps
Newport
R.I.

April 11. 70.

Sir,

Your letter of the 8th inst in relation to the charge for refining silver deposit No. 58, and enclosing Memorandum thereof was duly received.

I referred the letter and memorandum to Prof. Booth, our Melter & Refiner for Examination and report. I herewith enclose to you a copy of his communication to me on the subject.

It will be seen that the complaint of the depositor is entirely gratuitous, and without foundation in fact. The deposit was very badly and without the special agreement by the depositor, or his agent, the Adams Express Company, it would not have been received. With very

desire to accommodate depositors, our rule is, to protect the interests of both depositors and the Government: In this instance the depositor has no cause of complaint; his treatment has been liberal, and, to some extent, the Government the sufferer.

I enclose copy of the printed instructions relative to the transaction of business at the Mint of the U. S. on pages 6, 8, and 9 of which you will find a statement of the tariff of charges for rendering bullion fit for coinage.

Memorandum No. 56. enclosed in your letter, is herewith returned.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollard

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

April 11 70.

Sir,

The letter of Rodney A. Mercur dated Towanda, March 22. 1870, referred to me by Asst Sec'y Hartley, is herewith returned. The charge, expressed or implied, "that the three sets of pattern pieces of the $1, 25 & 10 cent denomination" of the proposed new coinage, were sold by the Director (or any other officer or clerk) of the Mint, for three dollars, whilst collectors had to pay $15. is without any foundation in fact, and simply and unqualifiedly untrue.

Proof sets of the regular coinage, including silver and bank coins, are sold at $3. per set in silver. Pattern pieces, mine in number, of the proposed new silver coinage, are sold at

$15. in currency. But a limited number were struck, and have all been disposed of.

Very Respectfully

J. Pearl
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury

April 12. 70

Dear Sir,

The Speck of Gold, referred to in your letter of the 11th inst. represents ten cents worth in a ton of galena. It was obtained by two operations; first, from five ounces of the ore, a very small button of Silver was obtained; and on dissolving that button, we got the residum of gold, which could be weighed on an assay beam turning to $\frac{1}{1200}$ of a grain. In this way we reached the fine point of one part in 6,220,000.

Yours Very Truly

J. W. Pollock

Director

Edward Wennan Esq.

Boston, Mass.

Boston, Mass.

P.S. The weight of the particle is 1/8th of

April 14 70.

Sir,

The gold bullion mentioned in your letter of the 11th inst as having been sent by Express, was duly received; and in compliance with your request I sent you today per Express, the value of it in pure silver = 34.05 ounces, at 999‰ fineness, as per the Enclosed statement by Resp. Booth, our Melter and Refiner.

Very Respectfully

J. A. Pollock
Director

Gen. B. McCartee, Esq
Supt Bureau of Engraving & Printing.
Treasury Department
Washington D.C.

April 14 70

Sir

The suspected half-eagle of 1858, which you sent for examination, proves to be counterfeit. In weight it is 117 3/4 grs. (11 1/4 light) which of itself is conclusive; ~~but~~ and by assay it is 733 fine, instead of 900. Value $3.72; net mint value $3.70.

The diameter & thickness are exact, & the impressions so good that they need a magnifier for detection. This is a most dangerous counterfeit.

We are always glad to examine suspected pieces, gold or silver.

Please state whether we shall retain the pieces of gold, or the value. The part cut off is in a rolled slip.

Yours truly

Jas. Pollock

Director.

Asst Treas. U.S.
Boston, Mass.

Apl 18. 70

Sir

In compliance with your request of the 16th inst, I herewith return $3.70/100 coin, the nett remains of the spurious half-eagle sent to the Mint for examination and assay.

Yours Truly

J. A. Pollock
Director

F. Haven Jr. Esq
Asst Treas U.S.
Boston, Mass.

Ent

Apl 18. 70

Sir,

I send you to day, as per instructions of the Paymaster at Boston, by Adams Express, 40 ounces pure silver, accompanied by duplicate receipted bills $55.97 C.O.D.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Lieut. Com.
E. O. Mathews
Head of the Torpedo Corps
Newport, R.I.

April 22 70.

Sir

Your inquiry of the 21st inst has been duly received.

The 1 and 2 cent coins are a legal tender to the amount of four cents.

The 3 cent copper nickels to the amount of sixty cents.

And the 5 cent copper nickels to the amount of one dollar.

The silver 3 cent coins are a legal tender to the amount of sixty cents, and the other silver coins from the half dime to the half dollar, inclusive, to the amount of five dollars.

Respectfully Yours

J. A. Hillhouse
Director

H. O. Smith, Esq
New York

April 26 70

Sir

The Director of the Mint is absent, but is expected to return this week, when he will fully reply to your letter.

In the meantime I send you his last Annual Report; a pamphlet Copy of U.S. Mint Laws; and a pamphlet in relation to Restoration of Silver Currency; which will throw light upon what he may have to say.

Very respectfully
your obt servant
H.C. Nichols
Director's Clerk

Wm Brown Esq.
549 Dorchester St.
Montreal

Ind

April 29th 70

Sir

In framing a reply to your inquiries, under date of the 21st of April, I am somewhat embarrassed by the want of a clear understanding of the present condition of Canada currency.

You state that the Government is "trying to drive out the U.S. Silver coins, and substitute shinplasters"; and, in another place, "we are getting new silver coins from England". With this admixture, I take it for granted that gold coin of England is current as the chief or normal standard of value.

I shall, however, try to answer your letter clearly, so that you may be able to apply the answers to the case.

We coin silver at two rates, or standards of weight. The whole dollar weighs 412½ grains, and

contains the same amount of silver as from the beginning of the Mint.

The fractions of the dollar, are at the rate of 384 grains (0.80.02) to the dollar. Both kinds are 900 fine. The fractional weight was instituted by law in 1853, and at the same time, such coins were limited in legal tender to five dollars.

Of late years, as you know, the relation between gold and silver has undergone a change in the market of bullion. Consequently our whole silver dollar sells for more than our gold dollar, by a little over three per cent. The average of sales at London, the great bullion market, shows that one ounce of silver 900 fine, is worth 120 cents in gold of the same fineness. An ounce of gold 900 fine being rated by our law at $18.60.46, it follows that the relation is about 15.42 to 1. You say 15½ which is near enough.

At the fractional

rate of 384 grains to the dollar, the ounce of silver is, with us, made current for 125 cents, or five cents more than it is intrinsically worth. The object of this over-valuation of silver, you readily understand, was to keep these fractional coins in their true place; that is, as subsidiary currency not for large payments, but simply for making "change". On this basis the English silver currency has stood for many years; and lately some of the other European nations have been obliged to resort to the same system. Its proper effect is, to prevent exportation and hoarding. But all such coinage ought to be restricted in amount; the evils and injustice of over-issue being very manifest.

I am now ready to remark, that if gold is your normal measure of value (or paper interchangable therewith) it follows that our fractional silver coins cannot

justly be made a legal tender "for any amount". And I take for granted, without knowing the standard to be used in your new silver currency, that it also is over-valued, so as to make it fit only for small pay=ments, or making change.

The market value above mentioned, gives 4 grains silver (900 fine) to the cent. Now divide 384 by 4 and you have 96 cents as the intrinsic gold value of two of our half dollars, or ten of our dimes. Thus you see they are 4 cents below, but being legally worth 100 cents, they are of course over-valued by 4 per cent.

British silver coin is 925 fine; ours is 900. But in making comparisons, the weight is also to be taken into account. So then, redu=cing the terms to a level, and stating the matter as plainly as possible, the same amount of absolute silver, which, is made into 66 shillings, is

made into 61 2/3 quarter dollars. So you see the error in your supposition, that "we coin more quarters out of a pound of silver, than they do shillings in England," and with al it is added "they pass as the same here."

I believe the foregoing answers all your inquiries, or gives you the means of drawing all the inferences you aim at; but, if not, I shall be happy to reply to any further questions.

I will thank you to send me a specimen or two of the new silver coinage, that we may compare it with that which was coined for Canada about 1858. Or, if not different from that, please inform me. The value of any specimens you send will be returned.

I intended to close here, but upon another reading of your letter, it seems proper to make some remarks upon your idea of making our silver fractional coins

a legal tender in your Country, to any amount. If they have accumulated there in such quantity as to make them capable of standing as the specie basis for your Bank circulation and home payments, there might be wisdom in adopting them for that purpose. They would be more steady and more valuable, than the paper currency, large or small, which we have had for about ten years; although they would be unwieldy for larger transactions. This effect would follow; that you would have one kind of money for home purchases, and another kind for transatlantic dealings. Gold would be at about 4 per cent premium, and of course would not circulate among you. Perhaps it does not now.

I am sorry to hear that your Government contemplates the issues of "shinplasters", meaning, I

purposes, small notes. We are now suffering from this poor substitute for silver, and anxious to find some way of getting rid of it.

I would thank you to inform me what are the relations in your country, by law or custom, between British, Colonial, and United States moneys; and whether you now keep accounts in pounds and shillings, or in dollars and cents.

Also, whether the Canadas silver coin of 1858 bears any considerable part in the currency.

And lastly, whether there is any considerable amount of U. S. gold coin in your Banks and Government Treasury

Very Respectfully Yours

J. W. Pollock
Director

Wm. Brown Esq.
549 Dorchester St
Montreal, Canada

May 2d 70

Sir

After the close of business on Saturday April 30th 1870, I made the usual monthly count and examination of monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result.

Gold	$389.389.79
Silver	93.910.48
Ordinary Fund	40.496.64
Copper Fund	138.748.72
San Francisco	11.962.28
Denver	372.52
Carson City	200.07
Total	$675.080.50.

Examination was at the same time made into the general condition and

operations of the Mint, and the Institution was found to be in good working order, and its business conducted in a careful and satisfactory manner

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

May 2d 70

Sir

Enclosed I forward a statement of deposits and coinage at this Mint during the Month of April 1870

Very Respectfully Yours

A. Loud
Director

Hon'l Geo. S. Boutwell
Sec'y of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

May 3. 70.

Sir

The silver bar, by Express, mentioned in your letter of — date, proves to be of such inferior quality, that we cannot receive it, except at a charge of (6) six cents per ounce Troy, for refining, (exclusive of the ½ per cent charge for coining). If these terms will be satisfactory, please give me explicit instruction to that effect.

Respectfully Yours
Jas Pollock
Direct

A. W. Hoyt, Esq.
Cambridgeport,
Mass.

pm N.

May 5th 70

Sir

The five cent nickel sent me in your letter of April 30th for examination, I have had carefully assayed and find its composition was as follows:

Nickel	13	per cent
Zinc	26	" "
Copper	.61	" "
	100	

There is no zinc in the genuine coin. This one is spurious.

The piece was right in color and weight, and the dies well executed; and the only protection seems to be careful observation by good judges with the aid of magnifiers.

When thus examined it will

be found that the engraving generally is coarsely executed; the motto "In God we trust," as well as the date, placed too near the edge; and the letters in the motto larger than in the genuine, and irregularly placed.

The piece you sent having been used in making the assay, I am unable to return it

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon. T. E. Spinner
Treasurer U. States
Washington D.C.

May 6th 70

Sir

Your letter of the 4th instant has been duly received.

After the publication of my last Annual Report, it was discovered that the tabular statements appended to the Annual Reports for 1867 and for 1868, which had been taken as we found them, were full of errors, and of course affected to that extent the accuracy of the general tables for 1869.

I immediately directed a careful revision of the tables for 1866, down, and now enclose for your use copies of the tables as corrected, to take the place of the printed tables for 1869 on pages 41 and 43 respectively, of my last Report, and from which you can readily compile

the aggregate table you speak of.

If you will look again at printed page 41, you will see that the Maryland item of $89.15 had not been overlooked.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Ellicott
Director

J. Smith Homans Esq.
Editor "Banker's Magazine"
New York

(Copy)

May 7 70

Sir

Enclosed I transmit, with my approval the official bond of Thos. C. Acton, Dy Supt of the U.S. Assay Office, at New York.

Very Respectfully Yours

(signed) Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell

Sec'y of the Treasury

Washington D.C.

May 9. 70

Gentlemen,

Enclosed I send you my check to your order on the Farmers & Mechanics National Bank of this city for Nine (9) Dollars, in full of duplicate receipted bill against the Mint for Subscription to the "Shipping & Com. List & N.Y. Price Current" to April 1, 1871. Please stop the paper at the Expiration of the period covered by this payment.

Respectfully Yours

[signature]

Publisher

Messrs
Austin Bourne
4 Cedar street
New York

May 11th 70

Sir

I herewith transmit to you two hundred and forty eight (248) oaths of allegiance, administered to the employes of the Mint in pursuance of a request from the Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 26th of April, ultimo.

Very Respectfully

Jas Pollock
Director

To the
First Comptroller Treasury
Washington D.C.

May 12th 70

Sir

Enclosed I forward the oath of allegiance of Michael Maher, an employe in this Institution, that should have been transmitted with the 248 others mailed to you yesterday, but was inadvertently overlooked

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

To the
First Comptroller Treasury
Washington D.C.

May 12. 70.

4

4 cts

June 30. 70.

Forty Eight Thousand
Three Hundred & Seventy five

July 1st 69

9,475.—
31,250.—
6,250.—
150.—
1,250.—
$48,375.—

Geo. S. Boutwell

Jas. Pollock
Director

May 17. 70

Gentlemen,

Please send the "Daily Globe" to the "U.S. Mint, Philadelphia, Pa." during the present session of Congress, and forward the back numbers from the beginning of the session. Send duplicate bills, receipted, as vouchers in the settlement of our accounts, and I will remit the amount by return mail

Respectfully Yours

J. A. Pollock
Director

Messrs
F. & J. Rives & Geo. A. Bailey
Pubs. "Daily Globe"
Washington D.C.

May 19th 70

A R Linderman Esq

Dear Sir

Enclosed find Draft to your order, from First Nat Bank of Shaumetown, Ill, for 5 Q. pieces, which please endorse to my order, and return at your earliest convenience

Respectfully Your

Director

May 19. 70

Gentlemen

Enclosed I remit ten dollars ($10.) in payment of your duplicate receipted bill, for the Daily Globe, for the Current session of Congress, which came to hand this morning.

Respectfully Yours

J. C. Rives

Director

Messrs
J. & J. Rives & Geo. A. Bailey
Publishers Daily Globe
Washington D.C.

May 19th 70

Thos. S. Ridgway Esq
Cash. First Nat'l Bank
of Shawneetown. Ill

Sir

Your favor of the 14th inst, inclosing Draft on Third Nat'l Bk N. Y. for $200—, to be returned in 5¢ pieces, is received.

As the draft was to H.R. Linderman Esq, or order, it has been sent to him for endorsement; and when returned, the proceeds will be forwarded to you in five cent coin.

Respectfully Yours

Director

May 23d 70

Dear Sir

In reply to your verbal inquiry, I have to say that the one and two cent coins are a legal tender to the amount of four cents. Act of April 22d 1864, Page 48, Sec. 11.

The 3 cent copper nickels to the amount of sixty cents. Act of March 3d 1865 Page 49, Sec. 3.

The 5 cent copper nickels to the amount of one dollar. Act of May 16th 1866, Page 52, Sec. 3.

The Silver 3 cent coins are a legal tender to the amount of sixty cents. Act of March 3d 1851, Page 40, Sec. 11.

The other silver coins, from the half dime to the half-dollar

inclusive, to the amount of five dollars. Act of February 21st 1853, Page 41, Sec. 1 and 2.

The pages given refer to the Pamphlet Edition of the U.S. Mint Laws, herewith sent you.

Yours Truly,

J. V. Pollock
Director

Hon. Wm. H. Armstrong M.C.
Washington D.C.

May 3d 70

G. Adams Esq
Cash. First Nat'l Bk
Wheeling W. Va

Sir

Your check for $180.- was received, and acknowledged, on the 19th inst.

The small coin ordered will be sent to morrow.

Respfly

Director

May 31 70

Sir

The counterfeit quarter eagle sent by you has been examined by our Assayer; and is herewith returned.

It is an interesting & important variety of the fraudulent art, quite different from the half eagle to which you refer. In that case the dies were false; in this they are genuine, so far as this, that they appear to have been mechanically produced from true dies, by an art which is no longer a secret. The process does not make a perfect & sharp die, but it makes a copy. I need say no more on that point.

Its weight is about 3½ grs. light, partly due to abrasion, for it is quite worn. Its diameter is very slightly too great; but the thickness at the

centre is quite in excess, being 48 thous. inch, the genuine being 34. At the edge, the difference is less.

Its Sp. gr. is 11.9, so that its content of gold is about 38 to 40 per cent.; the genuine being 90. From this you will know its real value.

When first emitted, it had a fine gold surface, by pickling; but by circulation this has worn off, and makes an ugly and suspicious mixture of red and yellow. When new, it must have been very hard to detect, except by the thickness at the centre, which the touch of an expert is apt to perceive; and also by an illegal defect of weight. The die bears an S, mintmark of San Francisco.

Very respectfully
your obt servant
Jas Pollock
Director
Mint

F. Haven Jr. Esq.
U. S. Treasurer, Boston.

June 1st 70

Sir

Yesterday, May 31st 1870, at the close of business, I made the usual monthly count and examination of monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result, viz.

Gold	$246.346.00
Silver	103.890.84
Ordinary Fund	68.638.30
Copper Fund	133.311.14
San Francisco Br. Mint	5.214.13
Denver " "	372.52
Carson City " "	200.07
Total	$557.973.00

Examination was at the same time made into the general condition and

operations of the Mint, and the Institution was found to be in good working order, and its business conducted in a careful and satisfactory manner

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon'l Geo. S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

Washington D.C.

June 6 0

Sir

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the receipt, to day, of the document on Bolivian moneys, sent by you.

The coins of Bolivia, especially silver, have long performed an important part in the currency of South America, especially on the western coast. It is interesting to observe that an improved system has been introduced.

It is quite important that this Mint should have, both for assay and for exhibition, some of the specimens of the new coinage; gold, silver and copper. Will it be asking too much, that you will send me say ten complete sets; and draw upon me for the value thereof.

I would also be glad to have any statistics, printed or written, in regard to the recent production of precious metals in Bolivia. Also, information as to what has become of the 4 and 2 reales pieces of debased fineness, or whether they will still be current, and

at what rate, compared with the new coin.

Any information I can give in return, to yourself or to the Government near which you reside, will be supplied with pleasure.

Very respectfully
your ob't servant
J. A. Pollock
Director

Charles S. Rand Esq.
Acting U. S. Consul
La Paz
Bolivia

June 6th 70

Hon. George S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

Dear Sir

In conformity with your Circular dated May 5th and received June 6th, requesting an "Estimate of the probable cost of supplying fuel, light, and water for the building under your (my) charge during the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1870" I have the honor to submit the following:

I presume the object of the Circular is to ascertain the amount of water, gas, wood and coal consumed for the ordinary purposes of cleansing, [illegible] and heating the Mint building. This will be rather difficult to arrive at, [illegible] enter largely into the several processes of Assaying, Melting & Refining [illegible] the manipulations of the Chief Coiner's Department.

Indeed the consumption of Coal and Wood is one [illegible] outlays incident to the operations of this Institution. The Coal is used [illegible] Melting and in generating steam to run machinery, and the wood [illegible] exclusively in the Annealing furnaces.

The building is heated during the day by exhaust steam. I can only therefore give you an approximate estimate of heating the building, provided the boilers generating steam were employed for no other purpose.

Also the cost of Gas and Water exclusive of that used in the processes of Coinage.

Probable cost of Coal and Wood used in the several Depts for all purposes (excluding heating) for the fiscal year beginning July 1. 1870. $ 12000.

Probable cost of Gas and Water for all purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1. 1870. $ 2000.

Estimated Cost of fuel for heating purposes, only $ 1450.

Estimated Cost of Gas and Water for illuminating and cleansing $ 1600.

Yours Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

June 8 70

Dear Sir

Your letter of 25 May opens such a pretty large field of inquiry & discussion, and I am happy to be able to refer you (as you request) to a recent publication in which all these subjects are treated of, by all manner of experts, & to a wide extent. This work is a Parliamentary document, of 1868, entitled "Report from the Royal Commission on International Coinage; together with the Minutes of Evidence, and Appendix." Folio, 370 pp. To be had at Her Majesty's Stationery Office, at the very low price of Four Shillings.

This important Document is doubtless to be found in the Library of your Government, but I think you will do well to add it to your own Library, as it so well falls in with your favorite studies.

It is by no means confined to International Coinage. The various witnesses speak of all the aspects of currency, domestic and foreign; and if they are contradictory, their opposite views will the better enable you to settle your own mind. You will find also the monetary Statutes and Systems of many nations in the Appendix.

Such a Treatise may be said to render obsolete all previous Dissertations.

I am very much obliged for the promise of the new silver coins of Canada "when they come to hand." It is quite desirable to have at least two full sets of them, both for assay, and for exhibition in the Mint Cabinet of Coins. I therefore shall insist upon returning the equivalent. And I will thank you to send me meanwhile, (and add it to the account) two new specimens of the paper quarter Dollar, Canada currency.

The substitution of paper small change, for silver, at a time when silver coin is abundant,

affords one of the most curious chapters in the history of currency; an entirely new thing, I am sure.

We are groaning under the evil of these flimsy bits of paper, and would be glad even to reduce the weight of our silver, if we might thereby return to metallic things.

Your letter gives us important information in regard to Canada currency. As an American, (and you are the same,) I am glad to see the simplicity of dollars and cents substituted for the awkward arithmetic of pounds, shillings, pence, & farthings. I am surprised that you have so little gold; and that being the case, and silver being abundant, I heartily concur with you, that Canada had better have taken silver for the basis of her currency, and used it both in large and small payments. Other countries do so, especially Germany and Netherlands. It is only where gold is much

used, that there comes in the perplexity of keeping the two metals well balanced, for large payments; indeed the thing cannot be done. In such case, silver ought to take the lower or subsidiary place, "to make change."

I shall be pleased to hear from you, & remain

your faithful servt

Jas. Pollock

Director

William Brown Esq.
549 Dorchester St.
Montreal

June 9. 70

Sir,

In compliance with your letter of the 6th inst. I enclose a detailed Statement of the amount of gold, silver and base metal Coinage during the month of May, 1870. You will see by a foot note that the Statement includes only ten days Coinage, the operations of the Mint having been suspended during the greater portion of the month, whilst making the annual settlement of the Melter & Refiner and Chief Coiner's accounts.

I also report that the whole number of Employes, including Asst Officers and Clerks, is 245. Of this number 148 are paid "out of the appropriations of Congress";

and 97, "from the cent coinage fund."

Referring to a conversation I had with you when I was last in Washington, I have to say that I will be able to make a reduction in the force, at the end of the present month; but to what extent I cannot now determine.

The other information called for, will be furnished at the end of this month, as requested.

Very Respectfully Yours

J. A. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury

June 13. 70

Sir,

Your check of the 11th inst. $200. for which you desire me to send you new American Silver dollars, is herewith returned — there being no law authorizing such an exchange.

If you will furnish the bullion the Mint will coin new U.S. Silver dollars for you on the terms of the Enclosed Circular, to which your attention is directed. We do not keep them on hand for sale.

Respectfully Yours
Jas. Pollock
Director
per H

Stanley Bagg Esq.
Syracuse, N.Y.

Sent

June 13 0

Sir

I have just had the pleasure of receiving an additional lot of coins as a gift from you to the Cabinet of the U.S. Mint, viz:

1 Silver piece of the Provisional Government of Venice, 1848; new, & very rare.

1 Silver 10 cent of the British Mint at Hong Kong.

1 copper coin of Ionian Islands, British.

3 large earthings, George IV. William IV. & Victoria.

2 third Farthings, Victoria.

Accept my thanks for this renewed instance of courtesy and good feeling.

Very respectfully
your obedient Servant

Jas. Pollock
Director
U.S. Mint

Geoville S. Chester Esq.
Chicheley Hall, newport Pagnel
Bucks
England

June 23rd 70

Sir

Your letter of the 22nd inst has been duly received. The first cents and half cents, were coined in 1793. The cents were coined each year with the exception of 1815.

The half-cents were issued 1793 up to 1811 excpt 1799- and from 1825 to 1836- excpt 1830-. Patterns from 1840 to 49 from 1849 to 1857 regular issue- 1852 being a pattern

The 1783 cent you speak about is the New York cent, a Colonial piece. The 1783 Washington cent was struck in France for circulation here,- known as the Brass Washington cent. There is no such publication such as you enquire about

Respectfully Yours
Jas. Pollock
Director

Mr David Kulick
York. Penn.

June 23. 0.

Dear Sir,

I duly received your letter of the 21st inst. enclosing copy of a report and accompanying statements from the Sydney Br. of the Royal Mint, with regard to Miller's process of refining gold. I have carefully considered the subject, and have also submitted the papers to Prof. Booth, our Melter & Refiner. I herewith enclose a copy of the conclusions to which the Examination has led him, and have only to add that I am in entire accordance with the views which he has expressed.

Respectfully Yours

Jos. Pollock
Director

E. S. Renwick, Esq
19 Park Place
New York

June 25th 70

Sir

Refering to your letter of the 6th instant, in which, among other things, you request "my opinion in reference to the further reduction of the force in the Mint"; I have the honor to say in reply that after careful inquiry among the operative Officers, I am of opinion that the present number of employees may be reduced without embarrass=ment to our operations, twenty or twenty-five at the close of this month or the next.

Also, that in accordance with your previous letters, I will continue the reduction of force from time

to time, if the condition of our business and the interests of the Institution will justify it.

At the close of the present month, as requested, I will reply to the remaining portions of your letter of the 6th instant.

The pressure by our political friends, to make no discharge until after the October election, is very great; but the interests of the Government, and your direction in the premises, will control my action.

Very Respectfully Yours

J. A. Prescott
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

June 27. 0.

Sir,

Your letter of the 20th inst, requesting certain coins to deposit in the Corner Stone of a Soldier's monument, having been addressed to my immediate predecessor in office, did not reach me until a few moments ago, four days after the time named in your letter as the time fixed upon for the ceremony. I write immediately to explain the delay, and to say that if not too late for your purpose, I will forward the coins by express as desired. Please let me hear from you in reply.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon John R. Bartlett
Secretary of State of R.I.
Providence R.I.

June 27. 0

Gentlemen,

Your letter of the 18th inst, having been addressed to my immediate predecessor in office, did not reach me until a few moments ago.

The 5 ¢ nickels are only redeemed by the Treas. of the U.S. at Washington, or any Ass't Treas. in sums of not less than $100. If you send us one cent nickels, according to the Circular of May 30. 1867, we will send you 5 ¢ nickels in return, but cannot issue such a certificate of deposits as you suggest.

Respectfully Yours

J. A. Pollock
Director

Messrs
Holley & Sheldon
Troy, N. Y.

June 30 0

Dear Sir

The coin you sent is of the city of Tours in France, the ancient capital of the Turones; which seems to have had the privilege (in common with many other cities) of coining its own money, without the head and titles of the Sovereign. There is no date, but it is certainly not over 250 years old.

On one side we read Benedict. Sit. No. Dni. Dei. Nri. "Blessed be the name of the Lord our God." Within, Turones Franc. "Tours, France."

Reverse Civit. Moneta Nova. "New money of the city."

The piece is curious, but being local, would not command any price that you would be willing to take. We get many such for the weight of the silver, or not much over.

I therefore think it best to return it in the present letter.

Respectfully yours

J. W. Scott
Dealer

July 1. 70.

Sir,

At the close of business yesterday, June 30th, I made the usual monthly count and examination of moneys in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result, viz.

Gold	$234,087.12
Silver	80,011.63
Ordinary A/c	44,583.50
Coppers fund	147,423.76
San Francisco B. Mint	2,990.53
Dawson B. Mint	352.52
Carson B. "	191.62
Total	$509,640.68

Examination was at the same time made into the general condition and operations of the Mint, and the

institution was found to be in good working order, and its business conducted in a careful and satisfactory manner.

Very Respectfully Yours

J. W. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Bartwell
Secretary of the Treasury

July 2. 0

Sir,

In compliance with your directions of March 1. and June 6. 1870, I herewith enclose a Statement of gold, silver and base metal coinage executed at this Mint during the month of June, 1870.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

July 2nd 70

Sir

In accordance with your request contain-
-ed in letter of the 6th of June last, "to report
at the close of that month the amount of
gold and Silver deposits; and the amount
of gold, Silver and base metal coinage for
the six months preceding;" I herewith
enclose tabular statement containing the
information desired, together with a copy
of a letter from the Chief Coiner (Mr Snowden)
which accompanied the statement. I entirely
and fully concur with him in the expression
of condemnation of the unlawful practice
referred to, of advancing gold coin by the Asst
Treasurer at New York on gold bars or Mint
certificate as collateral. The Rules and
instructions for the government and transaction
of the business of the Mint and Branches give
no encouragement to such Acts: A full compli
-ance

compliance with these rules and instructions would have prevented most, if not all of the things complained of in some of in some of the reports in relation to the Assay Office in New York and the Branch Mint at San Francisco.

I also report as requested in the letter of the 6th ultimo "that the total amount of available profits arising from the Cent coinage at the close of July 1st 1870. in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint was $147.056.44, which sum includes the base coins on hand, and currency received in exchange for such coins. Of these profits now available, I have ordered the sum of Fifty thousand dollars to be transferred to the Asst Treasury here, which amount can be so transferred in my opini=on "without interfering with the current business of the Mint."

Yours very Respectfully

J. A. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury

July 5. 0.

Gentlemen,

The returns for the gold referred to in your letter of the 29th ult. could not be forwarded to you, for want of instructions, or any memorandum on the package by which it could be known where it belonged. The package was rec'd by the Express Company and deposited by their resident agent, in the Mint, May 7. 1870, and I am informed the nett proceeds $145.37 will be shipped to you today.

Respectfully Yours
Jas. Pollock
Director
pro Ht.

Messrs
Webster, Musick, & Cunniffe
Kit Carson
Colorado

July 7 0

Messrs Appleton,
Green,
& Colburn; } Com. on part of
Am. Journ. of Numismatics.
Boston.

Gentlemen

It is proper that an Institution of this kind, having a museum of Coins &c., should be kept advised of what is going on in Numismatics, and I therefore request you to draw a Bill against the U. S. Mint for two dollars, & receipt the same; when the amount will be forwarded.

Wishing success to your undertaking,
I am respectfully yours

Jas. Pollock
Director.

July 7

Dear Sir,

I thank you for the silver coins of Canada, 2 of 10 cents & 2 of 5 cents, dated 1870. They prove to be of the same weight and fineness as the issue of 1858; i.e. 36 grains & 18 grains; and 925 fine, same as British sterling.

Truly yours

J. A. Pollock

Director

Wm Brown Esq.
549 Dorchester St.
Montreal

July 11th 70

Sir

In compliance with request in your letter of the 9th instant; I have this day sent to you by Express, for Hon E. B. Washburne, Minister of the United States at Paris, a medal struck in bronze, commemorative of (President) General Grant. These medals sell here for twelve dollars; costing about eight. The question of the payment of the last sum is left to you.

It may be well to add, that, properly speaking, we have no Congressional Medal of President Grant, which is an exception to the general rule

The medal sent is one struck
by order of Congress
^ some years ago, in honor of
"General Grant". It has been
customary and proper at the
incoming of a new Administra-
tion, to cause a "Presedential
Medal" to be struck, commem-
oraline of the event. It is also
used as an Indian Peace Medal.
The cost of the dies for such a
medal would not exceed
$2500 or $3000. This subject
perhaps more properly belongs
to the "Interior Department", but
is of interest to all the Depart-
ments of the Government.

Should a medal of the
kind suggested be ordered,
the dies, can be produced
here in a style, both of
design and execution, not
to be surpassed by any

Artist of our Country.

The cost too will be less than if ordered from outside parties.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Bloch

Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

Washington D. C.

Sent

July 13. 0

Sir,

I will thank you for a printed copy, when convenient, of the legislative, judicial and Executive appropriation bill, which has been by the papers has received the President's approval.

Also please forward a copy to the N. Y. Assay Office, and to the Branch Mints at San Francisco, Cal; Carson City, Nev; Dahlonega, Ga; and Charlotte N. C.

Very Respectfully Your

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell

Secretary of the Treasury

Washington, D.C.

July 19 70

Sir

We have not much statistical information on the subject contained in your letter of the 15th. I believe the mints of France do not publish the details of their business as we do. In fact they receive so much of their bullion at second-hand, that is in the shape of bars already refined, that nothing could be gained for your purpose, from that source.

It seems to be well agreed that the Senegal region affords more gold than any other in Africa: and yet it is of inconsiderable amount; for the whole yield of the continent, since 1850, is estimated at not more than nine hundred thousand dollars, $900,000, annually.

At the same time, that is to say, from 1851 to 1866, the average annual coinage of the French Mints, has been sixty-six millions

of dollars, $56,000,000, in gold.

These figures will show that the gold of Senegal does but little towards furnishing material for French coinage.

Very respectfully
your obt servt
J. W. Pollock
Director

A. Penfield Esq.
Washington.

July 29 0

Gentlemen

There is at present no law or regulation by which we can pay gold for silver. We have not yet a silver currency, and until we have, there is no inducement to buy silver for coinage. I hope this unfortunate state of things will not continue much longer.

Half dollars, ~~coined~~ quarter-dollars, and smaller pieces coined before 1853 (except a few of the 3-cents) will yield here, in new coins of similar denominations, 122½ cents per ounce troy. This will give about four per cent. gain on half dollars, and about two per cent. on quarters, according to wear.

I enclose a printed, circular for your further information.

I should be obliged, to learn from you whether the new paper Canada pieces of 25 cents, and the silver pieces, circulate on a par.

Yours truly
Jas Pollock
Director
Mint

Messrs Neveux & Co.

August 1 0

Sir,

I am this morning in receipt of your inquiry of the 30th ulto for a pair of Coin Scales for the Ass't Treas. U. S. at Baltimore Md.

In reply I have to State that the only Scales, not needed here, that would answer Mr. Negley's purpose, are a set from the Dahlonega Branch Mint, that we suppose will weigh from a single gold dollar up to, say, 200 ounces. Our adjuster of Scales, by laying aside other work, can have them ready for use in about two days. Many missing parts had to be supplied, and the repairs have been progressing at intervals.

Very Respectfully Yours
Jas. Pollock
Director
Mint.

Hon. Wm. A. Richardson
Ass't Secretary of the Treasury

August 1. 70

Sir,

At the close of business on the 30th of July, ultimo, I made the usual monthly count and Examination of the Monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint with the following result, viz,

Gold	$ 220,396.77
Silver	114,171.09
Ordinary Dr	29,185.52
Copper Fund	96,673.89
San Francisco Br Mint	1,786.75
Denver Br Mint	315.94
Carson Br Mint	161.11
Total	$ 462,591.09

I also made Examination in to the general condition and operations of the Mint, and the institution was found to be in

in good working order, and its business conducted in a careful and satisfactory manner.

Very Respectfully Yours

J. A. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Bentwell
Secretary of the Treasury

August 4. 70

1.

Veit June 30. 78

Forty Eight Thousand
three Hundred and Seventy five ——

July 1. 70

9,475. —
31,250. —
6,250. —
150. —
1,250. —
$ 48,375. —

Gro. S. Boutwell J. E. Pollock
Director

Aug.t 4 0

Gentlemen,

We take for granted that you will send us silver from which the larger part of the lead has been removed; and if nearly fine, so much the better for your interests, as it cuts down or removes the refining charge.

There is no allowance for any copper contained.

The gold is allowed for, provided it amounts to one dollar, clear of parting charge. That charge will be 1½ cents per ounce on silver nearly fine, containing less than one-fifth (in weight) of gold. The charge will be higher, if the metal is base and brittle, say, 3, 4, or 5 cents an ounce, according to condition.

Respectfully yours &c

J. W. O'Reel
Director

Mess.rs Kelley & Sherman
Chicago.

Augt 4. 70.

Sir,

Enclosed I forward a Statement of Deposits and Coinage at this institution during the month of July, 1870.

Very Respectfully

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury

Augt 6 0

Sir,

The half eagle sent by you has been carefully examined. Its sp. gr. is 17.51, and it is undoubtedly a genuine piece, altho' (as you state) ten grains, say near 40 cents, light.

On taking a close measurement of its diameter, we find it to be reduced by $\frac{1}{50}$th of an inch; and by comparing it with a good piece, the difference is quite evident both to the eye and the touch.

There is no appearance of reduction by sweating. We therefore conclude that this is a case of fraud by filing off the edge, and then restoring the ribs or notches by a nurling machine. Our Engraver says this is well understood at Birmingham, Eng. & no doubt elsewhere.

It is a kind of fraud which requires watching, and no doubt pays for the laborer.

You have not said whether I shall return the piece, or send its value, say $4.60. It would be useful here as a specimen of that sort of tampering. Awaiting your reply, I am &c.

Jas. Pollock. Director.

S. Haven Jr. Esq. Asst Treas. U.S. Boston Mass.

Augt 9. 0

Sir,

Your letter of the 8th inst. enclosing transfer check on the Asst Treas. U.S. at Philadelphia for $600. was duly rec'd this morning. In return I have sent you, by Express, that amount in three cent nickel coin, as you request.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon L. P. Tuttle

Asst. Treas. U. S.

Washington, D.C.

Aug 11 0

Sir

Enclosed I send you two dollars ($2.) in payment of your receipted bill of the 7th inst. for the Mint subscription for the American Journal of Numismatics for July 1870 to July 1871.

Respectfully Yours
Jas Pollock
Director
pro tem

Mr. Jeremiah Colburn,
17 Bromfield Street,
Boston,
Mass.

Aug 12. 0

Sir,

Enclosed I remit, as per your request of the 8th inst. $4.60/100 in Coin, the value of the half eagle forwarded by me for Examination in your letter of the 2nd inst.

Respectfully Yours

J. W. Pollard

Assistant

Hon. F. Haven, Jr.
Asst Treas. U. S.
Boston
Mass

Aug 12 0

Sir,

Respectfully referring to your letter of the 30th ult. and my reply thereto of the 1st inst. I have further to report that to complete the Dahlonega Coin Scales, will require an Expenditure, outside of the Mint workmen, of not less than $65. for a pan, and a set of weights, for which the Mint should be reimbursed, if the Scales are sent to the Asst. Treas. U. S. at Baltimore. Shall I have the Scales finished, accordingly, and forwarded to Baltimore? Awaiting your directions in the matter, I am

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Bartwell
Secretary of the Treasury

Aug 16. 0

Sir,

In compliance with your request of the 15th inst. I herewith enclose one dozen copies of the only circular in existance regulating the redemption of nickel & copper coins, and which is still in force.

Very Respectfully

J. A. Pollock
Director

Hon. F. E. Spinner
Treasurer U.S.
Washington D.C.

Aug 23. 0.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 13th inst I have to state that upon further investigation I find that the Scales from the Dahlonega Branch Mint will not answer your intended purposes, for the reason given in the Enclosed Copy of a report on the subject by A. Loudon Snowden, Esq Chief Coiner of the Mint, and I endorse his suggestion that it would be the better policy to purchase two pair of Scales for the use of the Assay Dep. U.S. at Baltimore. If you so direct I will procure them in this city at the prices named, and ship them to Baltimore accordingly.

Very Respectfully

J.R. Pollard
Director

Hon. Wm. A. Richardson
Acting Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.

Aug 23. 0

Dear Sir,

I have duly received your favor of the 19th inst, and have the pleasure of assuring you in reply that the Mint will be prepared to furnish, on demand, any amount of cents, and three and five cent nickel coins, that the South may require. The Mint will pay the cost of transportation, so that they will be delivered free at the nearest Express, or freight station, I will send you some circulars on the subject in a few days, and will thank you for any further suggestions you may have to make at any time.

Yours truly

J. C. Pollock
Director

Wm. H. Oliver, Esq.
Newbern, N. C.

Aug 23. 0

Sir,

I have examined the statements of operations by Miller's process alluded to in your letter of the 16th inst. and submitted them to the Officers specially interested in refining processes. I coincide with their opinion that the economy and other advantages, promised by, and asserted for the process by the Sibley Mint, which has a deserved reputation, are a sufficient warrant for our giving the process an actual trial. Having, however, no legal authority for expenditure of our Congressional appropriation to test new projects & processes, in mixing operations, we cheerfully offer you the facilities for making such experiments at your own cost of apparatus and superintendence. Our own Officers will also superintend and render all needful assistance.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

E. S. Renwick, Esq

19 Park Place

New York

Aug 27. 0.

Sir,

In compliance with your request of the 25th inst. I have ordered for the use of the Asst Treas. U.S. at Baltimore, Md. a pair of Coin Scales, equal in all respects to those furnished to the Assistant Treasurer at San Francisco, but with some additional weights. They will weigh $5,000.- in gold, and over, at a single draught; and be ready for shipment in about six weeks. The price will be Six Hundred and Fifty Dollars. ($650.)

Very Respectfully

J.S. Pollock
Director

Hon. Wm. A. Richardson
Acting Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D.C.

Ent 457

Aug 29. 0

Sir,

The nugget of gold mentioned in your letter of the 19th inst. has not yet come to hand.

Respectfully Yours

J. L. Pollock
Director

O. C. Zeller, Esq
Tiffin
O.

Sept 1. 0

Sir,

At the close of business on the 31st ultimo, I made the usual monthly count and examination of the monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following results, viz.

Gold	$ 96,471.71
Silver	95,478.08
Ordinary a/c	63,716.50
Copper Fund	102,729.10
San Francisco Br Mint	1,786.75
Denver " "	315.94
Charlotte " "	300.00
Carson City " "	82.71
	$ 360,880.79

Which corresponds with his books.

The Mint is in good working order and condition.

Very Respectfully

J. W. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury

Sept 1. 0

Sir,

Enclosed I forward my official Statement of Deposits and Coinage at the Mint, during the month of August, 1870.

Very Respectfully

J. R. Snowden
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury

Sept 1 70

Messrs Neveux & Co.

Gentlemen

Your letter accompanying a deposit of silver coins, to be made into Dollars, has been received, and the business will be duly attended to in the Treasurer's department.

You also sent a piece of 25 cents, of the new coinage for Canada, with a request to have it separately assayed, and compared in value with our piece of the same denomination. We take pleasure in so doing, and now send you the result, although it is hardly fair or satisfactory to depend upon only one piece for such a comparison.

The coin weighed 89 4/10 grains, and was 928 thous. fine. No doubt it is intended to weigh 90 grs., same in proportion as your piece of 10 cents; and of course it is also intended to be 925 sterling fineness, or 925. It would therefore be the safest to take the legal, instead of the actual, figures; but the

difference is not material.

I would then state, as the best way of showing the comparison, that our 25 cent piece, 96 grs. x .900, contains 86.4 grains fine silver. The piece you sent, 89.4 grs. x .928, contains 83 grs. (very closely) fine silver. And at the legal rates, 90 x .925 would give 83.25 grains fine silver. So that you are justified in supposing that our piece has the most value.

After assay, the chips of this piece were thrown in with your deposit.

I should be glad to know, at your convenience, what object is to be accomplished by having a silver 25 cent piece, and a paper piece of the same value, which you say circulates at full par. Any light that we can get, for the sake of our own currency, will be acceptable.

Very respectfully
your obt. servant
Jas. Pollock
Director

Messrs. Stevens & Co., Bankers,
Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

mischief and set to work to arrest it!

Sept. 10th 70

The piece [illegible] well Sinted, that it requires a good The half-eagle you sent is counterfeit and apparently of the same fabrication as the piece sent by you in April; but, being heavier, is worth the latter more. It is only 7/10 of a grain light, which is a very close approach. Its value is four dollars in gold, as near as may be. This is enclosed.

Where dies are made and gold is melted, rolled, cut-out, and stamped, there must be machinery enough, and noise enough to attract some attention. Cannot Government Detectives be informed of this serious

mischief and put to work to arrest it!

The piece is so well executed, that it requires a good judge and a magnifier, to detect it. The fineness is about 940, instead of 900.

In future please not to cross the pieces, as it confuses the examination.

Yours Truly

Jas. Pollock
Director

T. Harvey Jr. Esq.
Asst. Treasurer
at Boston Mass.

Sept. 10th 70

Sir

Enclosed I forward copy of correspondence with the Ass't. Treasurer of the U.S. at Boston Mass. with regard to a spurious Five dollar gold piece of 1858 sent to the Mint for examination.

In calling your attention to these letters, I take the liberty of suggesting that it might be well for the Treasury Department to take some steps to find out where these dangerous imitations are from, whether made abroad, or in some of our button-factories, or by petty medal makers. The dies in the case referred to are well cut though not fac-similies.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon'l. E. Spinner
Treas. U.S.

Transferred from Branch Mint Book

Sept 12 0

Sir,

The specimen enclosed in your letter of the 3rd inst. proves, upon testing it, to be platinum, in the form in which it is usually found. When purified, it is worth five or six dollars an ounce.

The Mint charge for this Examination and report is five dollars, which please remit.

Respectfully Yours
J. L. Pollock
Director

Wm Armstrong, Esq.
Farmington,
Iowa,

Sept 14. 0

Sir,

Your "Estimate Circulars" of the 1st inst. with the accompanying blanks have been duly received.

As the Estimates are required by your Circulars to conform in tables and arrangement to the "Book of Estimates" of last year, I will thank you to send me one of the printed Book of Estimates for reference. I have also to request that you mail a copy of the Book to the New York Assay Office, and to the respective Branch Mints at San Francisco Cal. Carson City, Nev. Dahlonega, Geo. and Charlotte, N. C. for the information and guidance of the Officers in charge of those Institutions, and to whom I shall forward your Estimate blanks and Circulars.

Very Respectfully

J. Ross Snowden
Director

Hon. Wm. A. Richardson
Acting Secy Treasury
Washington D.C.

Sept 15. 0

Sir,

Yours of the 14th has been duly received.

The Peruvian cents of the same composition as our old nickel cent, were made by the firm of Holmes, Booth & Haydens, Waterbury, Conn. The firm is now Holmes, Haydens & Co.

There is no other manufactory, that we know of, where coins have been made.

Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock
Director

J. Waters Sylvester, Esq
U.S. Assay Office
New York

Sept 24. 0.

Gentlemen,

The U.S. Mint is not authorized by law to Execute Coinage for other governments, and could not, therefore, fill the San Domingo order referred to in your letter of the 23rd inst.

The only parties I know of in this Country to whom you could apply is a firm in Waterbury, Conn; Holmes, Haydens & Co. who, I am informed, struck the Copper Centavos for the Peruvian government.

If you can spare them, I will place the two Copper Coins enclosed in your letter, in the Mint Cabinet of Coins. If not, I will return them.

Respectfully Yours

J. R. Snowden
Director

Messrs. N. P. Mann & Co.
229 State Street,
Boston, Mass.)

Sept 26. 0

Sir,

Neither your name, nor either of those mentioned in your letter of the 23rd inst. are to be found in our list of depositors. If you will inform me in what names the deposits you speak of were made, I will make further investigation into the discrepancies of which you complain. Much of the gold from North Carolina comes through houses in Baltimore and Richmond, and the cause of complaint doubtless lies outside of the Mint, or in mistaken estimates of the quality of the metal sent to us.

Respectfully Yours

J. P. Pollock

Director

Mr. J. S. Dysart,
Dysartville N. C.

Sept 30. 0

Sir,

Enclosed I forward my Official Statement of Deposits and Coinage at the Mint during the month of September, 1870.

Very Respectfully
Jas. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Oct. 1st 70

Sir

At the close of business on the 30th ultimo, I made the usual monthly count and examination of the monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result, viz.

Gold	$383.447.94
Silver	59.718.39
Ordinary a/c	38.349.20
Copper fund	121.484.76
San Francisco Br. Mint	1.776.09
Denver "	606.00
Charlotte "	921.70
Carson City "	66.36
	$606.370.44

which corresponds with his Books.

The Mint is in good working order.

Very Respectfully Yours

J. A. Bolles
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Sec'y Treasury
Washington D.C.

October 1 70

Sir,

In answer to your inquiries, Platinum is extensively used by the Dental manufacturers in the form of wire. It is also used for small vessels in chemical laboratories.

Of course the demand is quite limited, as compared with the other precious metals.

It is always found in the native or metallic state, being washed out of alluvial sands. It is accompanied with other scarce metals of little or no use, which must be refined out; and this, as well as manipulating the metal into plates and wire, requires considerable metallurgical skill. We believe this kind of work is only done in London and Paris; and probably in St. Petersburg, where the metal was formerly made into coin.

The crude metal yields about 75 per cent. pure. I should like to know whether you are likely to produce it in considerable quantity.—

The money ($5) is received.

Yours respy

J. A. Pollock
Director

Mr. Wm Armstrong
Farmington, Iowa.

Oct 5th 70

Henry F. J. Ricker & Co
Quincy Ill.

Gents

Yours of the 1st inst, stating that you had shipped a box contatining $500.~ in Nickel Coin, on the 30th of August last, is received.

In reply I have to say that, no such box has been received at the Mint, neither do we redeem the Nickel cents, but, exchange them for three or five cent piece.

Enclosed please find Circular on the subject.

Your Respectfully

A. Loud
Director

October 6. 70.

2.

Second June 30. 71.

Forty Eight Thousand
Three Hundred and Seventy five

July 1. 70.

9,475.00
31,250.00
6,250.00
150.00
1,250.00
$48,375.00

Geo. S. Boutwell, J. A. Pollock
Director

Oct 8. 0

Sir,

The 5 of nickel transmitted in your letter of the 4th inst. is a genuine coin. Its thinness is doubtless owing to the fact that it was cut from the end of a strip, accidently and very rarely a little thinner at the end than the general body of the strip. With your consent I will retain the piece as a curiosity. I send you a perfect piece in its place

Respectfully,

[signature]

Director

Hon. F. Haven Jr
Asst Treas U. S.
Boston, Mass.

Oct 14. 0.

Sir,

The six hundred dollars' worth of 3 ¢ nickel coin ordered in your letter of the 13th — and for which you enclosed a transfer draft in my favor, on the Asst Treas. U.S. at Philadelphia — have been forwarded to you, today, by Express.

Very Respectfully

Jas Pollock
Director

Hon. L. L. Tuttle
Asst Treas. U.S.
Washington
D.C.

Oct. 17th 70

Sir

In reply to your request of the 15th instant, (just received) for the Annual Report of the operations of the Mint and Branches; I have to state that the report has been prepared, and is now being transcribed.

It will be transmitted to the Department in a very few days.

Very Respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon J. F. Hartley
Assistant Secy. Treasury
Washington D.C.

Oct 17. 70.

Sir,

The 100 oz. granulated silver ordered in your letter of the 14th inst. for L. E. Walker, Photographer of the Treasury Department, has been sent to his address today, by Express, as per enclosed receipt.

I enclose duplicate receipted bills, for the silver, $140.00 which I will thank you to remit in silver coin.

Very Respectfully
Jas Pollock
Director

Hon Geo S Boutwell, Secty
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington D.C.

Oct. 20 0

Sir,

In reply to your inquiry, the British Pound Sterling, if new or uncoin, yields $4.86.3; from which, if brot to the Mint for recoinage, there is to be deducted by law, one-half per cent, making the net Mint value $4.83.9.

But estimating this money as it usually is to be found, somewhat worn, which perhaps is the true way for your purpose, it is worth $4.85.1 on the average; from which deducting charge for recoinage, makes $4.82.7.

I am obliged to state the values both before and after deduction, because that charge may at any time be lessened or removed by Act of Congress, as is now contemplated. In that case, of course, the Mint value of the coin is proportionably increased. But at present it is as above stated.

Very respectfully
your obed't servant
Jas Pollock
(Chas K.) Director

C. F. Macdonald Esq
Superintendent &c &c

Oct. 24th 70

Sir

I herewith forward my Report of the operations of the Mint and Branches, and Assay Office in New York during the fiscal year ending June 30th 1870.

Very Respectfully Yours

Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Personal.

Oct. 24th 70

Dear Sir

I have today forwarded to your official address, under a separate envelope, my Report, in manuscript, of the operations of the Mint and Branches during the past fiscal year; and now take the liberty to enclose to you, personally, for your more convenient perusal, a printed copy of the same. No copies, however, will be given to the public until after your Annual Report has been sent in to Congress.

I regret that my Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1869, although forwarded to your address by mail on the 30th of September

1869, was not (by some oversight) placed in your hands in time for your Annual Report.

Very Respectfully

A. B. Mullett

Director

Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Oct. 21st 70

Sir

I herewith transmit the Estimates of Appropriations required for the support of the Mint and Branches for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1872. I also enclose copies of the original estimates for the Branch Mints and Assay Office, and invite special attention to the statements in the letters of explanation accompanying them, copies of which are herewith forwarded.

Prior to the Act of July 20th 1868, the fund arising from the deductions from depositors, for parting, refining, and making bars, &c as by law available for ordinary expenses. That act requires the funds received from the above deductions to be

covered into the Treasury of the United States. This being the case, it is necessary to increase the estimates for the parent mint, for incidental and contingent expenses, including wastage, from $25.000 - the amount appropriated last year, and which is insufficient for the purpose, - to $35.000.

I consider the proposed increase of $10.000. in this item absolutely indispensable to the successful operations of the Mint, and the rights and convenience of depositors, and strongly urge the appropriation accordingly.

Very Respectfully Yours.

J. Pollock
Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Oct 25. 0

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 24th inst. has been duly received.

The gold scales you enquire about have just been completed; the weights are now being adjusted, and by the latter part of the week at farthest, I hope to be able to ship them to you.

Very Respectfully

J. W. Pollock

Director

Hon. — Negley,
Asst Treas. U.S.
Baltimore, Md.

Oct. 25th 70

Sir

I have today transfered to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States the sum of Fifty thousand dollars ($50.000) on account of profits derived from the coinage of the one and two cent bronze, and the three and five cent nickel coins.

Very Respectfully Yours

Jas. Pollock

Director

Hon Geo. S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Oct. 31. 0.

Sir,

Enclosed please find Five Dollars to cover your bill for the Bankers Magazine for the current magazine year sent me in your letter of the 27th inst. Please return the bill duly receipted.

Your suggestion with regard to an additional table of Statistics comes too late for this year, as my annual report is already printed.

As soon as Congress meets I can send you the desired number of copies of the Report for your special distribution.

Respectfully

J. P. Pollock
Director

J. Smith Homans, Esq.
Ed. Bankers Magazine
New York

Oct 31. 0.

Sir,

Your letter of the 29th inst has been duly received, together with the package by Express. The latter is entirely too small to be received as a deposit and made into a bar. The most we could do would be to hand it over to the Assayer, to use as much of it as may be necessary to make an assay, and determine the quality and fineness of the material, and return to you what is left, with a report. For this service the charge would be $5. in currency. If you wish this done you will remit $5. with your instructions. If not, advise me what disposition to make of the package.

Respectfully

Jas. Pollock
Director

Mr John H. Ebbert,
Pittsburg, Pa

Nov. 1st 0

Geo. Eyster Esq. Treas. U. S. Mint

Dear Sir

In reply to the note of Mr. Wharton of Oct. 14th ult., and referred to me by you Oct. 28th 1870, I have to say that we have now on hand, as reported to me by the proper offisers of the Mint, over twenty thousand pounds (20.000) or ten (10) tons of nickel; a quantity sufficient, at present rate of demand and consumption, for nearly five years supply. It would not be advisable to increase this quantity. When required, the american nickel should be purchased in preference to the foreign article.

Yours Respectfully

J. Ross Snowden

Director

Nov. 1st 70

Sir

Yesterday Mr Henry Troemner, manufacturer, of this City, for=
=warded to you, three boxes containing the scales and weights ordered by you for your Depart=
=ment.

Enclosed is freight receipt of P. W. & B. R. R. for same.

Bills in duplicate have been forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment of the amount.

Respectfully Yours

J. P. Pollock
Director

Hon Negley
U. S. Ass't. Treasurer
Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 1st 70

Sir

At the close of business on the 31st ultimo, I made the usual monthly count and examination of the monies in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, with the following result, viz.

Gold	$127.913.50
Silver	86.202.33
Ordinary fund	72.602.44
Copper fund	86.794.78
San Francisco Br. Mint	1.766.09
Denver "	550.00
Charlotte "	171.70
Carson City "	989.11
	$376.989.95

which corresponds with his Books.

I also made examination into the general condition and

operations of the Mint, and the institution was found to be in good working order, and its business conducted in a careful and satisfactory manner

Very Respectfully Yours

A. Elliott

Director

Hon. George S. Boutwell
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.